Bengaluru Monday, October 27, 2025 Pages 14 Vol 78 No 296 ₹7

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

2026 will be ASEAN–India year of maritime cooperation: Modi

Page 12

Nation

MP minister asks cricketers to inform before going out P.8

Business

Cybersecurity grapples with acute skill gap P.10

Nation
India–China direct flights resume P.8

Sports
Real Madrid seal tense Clasico P.13

Rubio: US-Pak ties growing, but not at India's expense

Secy of State says friendship with New Delhi is 'deep'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The US is keen to expand its ties with Pakistan beyond counterterrorism cooperation but not "at the expense or instead of" a good relationship with India, President Donald Trump's Secretary of State Marco Rubio said.

Rubio's remarks came as Trump repeated his claim about brokering the May 10 ceasefire between the two arch-rivals and that India was cutting down on its oil imports from Russia "completely".

"So, obviously the more we sell them, the less they'll buy from someone else," said Rubio, noting India had already expressed its desire to diversify the sources of its oil imports.

Trump and his secretary of state made the comments while flying to Kuala Lumpur on Saturday, even as New Delhi refrained from endorsing the US President's claim about securing an assurance from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on India slashing its oil imports from Russia.

Apart from Trump's tariff tirade and his offensive against India for buying oil from Russia, what also added to the stress in ties were his growing bonhomie with the civil and military leadership of Pakistan and his praise for the counterterrorism efforts of Pakistan.

"I think the Indians are very mature when it comes to diplomacy and things of that nature. Look, they have some relationships with countries that we don't have relationships with. So, it's part of a mature, pragmatic foreign policy

MARCO RUBIO, US Secretary of State

"We know they're concerned for obvious reasons because of the tensions that have existed between Pakistan and India historically. But, I think they have to understand we have to have relations with a lot of different countries," Rubio, who accompanied Trump to Kuala Lumpur, said.

"We see an opportunity to expand our strategic relationship with Pakistan, and I think we've made that, our job is to try to figure out how many countries we can find how we can work with on things of common interest."

▸ US-Pak, Page 4

Will resolve Pak-Afghan conflict: Trump

US President Donald Trump on Sunday said he would get the conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan "solved very quickly", calling Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army chief Asim Munir "great people". Details on Page 12

Cong takes dig at Modi

The Congress on Sunday took a swipe at PM Narendra Modi over US President Donald Trump repeating his claim that India is cutting back on the purchase of Russian oil, saying "no wonder" the prime minister's "huglomacy" is not visible today in Kuala Lumpur.

High-rises likely to pop up along B'luru tunnel road

Govt lifts FSI ceiling; green zones to see commercial towers

DH SPECIAL

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

High-rise buildings with a minimum of 15 floors are likely to come up in some of Bengaluru's most-sensitive green zones, as the state government has offered sweeping relaxations in building norms to attract private bidders for the proposed Rs 17,800-crore tunnel road between Hebbal and Silk Board Junction.

According to tender documents, the government will also provide six acres of land in five prime locations, where the selected bidder can use a Floor Space Index (FSI) of 5, allowing five times more built-up area than what is currently allowed in the city.

While the government wants to make the 16.75-km project financially viable, mobility experts believe the relaxations will encourage more vehicles along the corridor. Hebbal, Race Course, Palace Grounds, Lalbagh and Silk Board Junction are the five places, where commercial towers will come up.

While four sites are government properties, the fifth belongs to a private entity that the state plans to acquire. Together, they cover 25,000 square metres of land that will be turned into dense commercial zones, overriding existing restrictions as they are marked as "green" or "sensitive".

▸ Tunnel, Page 4

CONTROVERSIAL MOVE

- At five locations, bidder can use FSI of 5, allowing five times more built-up area than what is currently allowed across Bengaluru
- The new FSI relaxation will require an amendment to the Revised Master Plan (RMP)
- Experts believe relaxations will encourage more vehicles along the corridor, leading to further traffic congestion

Commercial towers at five intermodal hubs

Hebbal Junction, Mekhri Circle (Palace Grounds), Race Course, Lalbagh Botanical Garden, Central Silk Board (St John's hospital)

Space: **5,000** sq metres (1.2 acres) at each location

No one, except God, can stop me: DKS

D K Shivakumar on Sunday defended the tunnel road project, stating that only MP Tejasvi Surya was opposing it. "No one — except God — can stop me regarding the tunnel project," he said. Page2

Kurnool bus tragedy: Forensic report reveals biker was drunk

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Two days after a massive blaze claimed the lives of 19 passengers on a Bengaluru-bound private bus near Kurnool, the police, citing a forensic report, said on Sunday that the biker who triggered the accident was under the influence of alcohol at that time.

According to the forensic report, the rider of the two-wheeler, B Siva Sankar, was drunk when his bike hit a divider near Chinnatekur on National Highway 44 and caught fire after colliding with the sleeper bus operated by V Kaveri Travels.

His companion, Yerriswami, who was riding pillion, reportedly confessed to the Kurnool police that both had consumed alcohol before going on the ride.

Siva Sankar died in the accident.

Kurnool Superintendent of Police Vikrant Patil said the Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) detected traces of alcohol in the viscera samples of the deceased biker.

▸ Bus tragedy, Page 4

Drunk drivers 'terrorists': Hyd top cop

In a social media post on Sunday, Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar termed drunk drivers as "terrorists" and said the act of drunk driving should never be tolerated.

EC to announce nationwide SIR schedule today

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Election Commission is all set to announce on Monday the schedule for a nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The exercise is likely to be held in phases, with the first one targeting election-bound states and a few more.

The poll body has scheduled a press conference at 4.15 pm on Monday.

Indications are that the EC will conduct the first phase of SIR in five poll-bound states and Union Territories — Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal — and a few more states and UTs where preparatory works are over.

Details on Page 8

HC facing space constraints, will consider shifting it: DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday indicated that the Karnataka High Court, one of the landmarks in Bengaluru, may get a new address as the space in the building is "small".

The red stone-and-brick heritage building — constructed in 1868 — stands opposite the Vidhana Soudha.

Speaking during his 'Walk with Bengaluru' programme at Cubbon Park, he noted that the Chief Justice had cited lack of space within the historic building.

"Lawyers and the Chief Justice had requested that 15-20 acres of land be provided for the relocation of the high court," Shivakumar said. "The proposal will be discussed at the government level. The judiciary will be taken into confidence and an inspection will be conducted as to where suitable space can be found nearby. Since it is an old historic building, nothing can be done with it. But the space is small."

Shivakumar pointed that the court building cannot be shifted to the city's outskirts.

We're trying to identify an alternative place that will be suitable for both petitioners and lawyers. Some lawyers had called upon me and suggested the Race Course land. We will review the legal obstacles and make a decision

- DK Shivakumar, Deputy CM

▸ HC, Page 4

BIHAR VOTES

'Will throw Waqf Act in dustbin'

PATNA, DHNS: The Opposition's CM candidate in the Bihar Assembly elections, Tejashwi Yadav, on Sunday asserted that if the I.N.D.I.A bloc came to power in the state, the contentious Waqf (Amendment) Act would be "thrown into the dustbin".

Speaking at a public rally in Katihar and Kishanganj, the RJD leader said party chief Lalu Prasad always stood for minorities.

Details on Page 5

In Bihar, both camps dig up ghosts of past

NEW DELHI, DHNS: As the Bihar campaign enters the last leg, the campaign theme of the I.N.D.I.A bloc and the NDA is veering towards caste and social fault lines.

NDA leaders have sought to underscore the fear of "jungle raj" during Lalu's rule.

Details on Page 5

FESTIVAL FERVOUR

People walk past a Chhath Puja festival-themed mural, in Patna, on Sunday. PTI

8k zero-kid schools had 20k teachers

NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a striking mismatch of educational resources and their usage, nearly 8,000 schools across India recorded zero student enrolments during the 2024-25 academic year, and yet, had over 20,000 teachers on their payroll.

According to data from the Ministry of Education, 20,817 teachers were engaged in the institutions that didn't have a single student.

West Bengal led the tally, with the state alone accounting for 3,812 schools without a single student and 17,965 teachers assigned to them.

Telangana had the second highest number of such schools (2,245) followed by MP (463). In these two states, the zero-enrolment schools had 1,016 and 223 teachers, respectively.

Some states reported no schools with zero enrolments. These included Haryana, Maharashtra, Goa, Assam, HP, Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. Among UTs, Delhi, Puducherry, Lakshadweep and Daman and Diu also reported none.

The aggregated figure for zero-enrolment schools — 7,993 in 2024-25 — shows a decline from 12,954 in the previous academic year.

▸ Schools, Page 4

MAKING CHOICE

Lifestyle change, fear of pain push rural women to C-section

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

C-section deliveries are on a steady rise in both private and government hospitals, especially in rural areas, according to statewide data accessed by *DH*.

As per data till September in the 2025-26 financial year, as many as 63% of deliveries in private hospitals were C-sections while the corresponding figure for government facilities stood at 40%. The figures were 60% and 35%, respectively, in the 2022-23 fiscal.

While there is a general perception that C-sections are higher in urban areas, lifestyle changes have pushed up their number in rural areas as well, data showed.

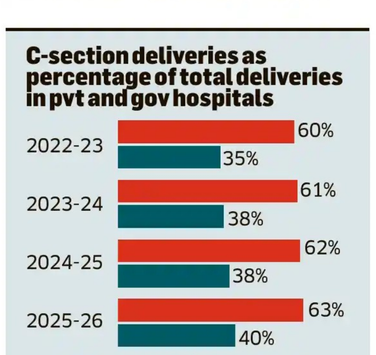
For instance, several districts in North Karnataka have recorded a higher rate of C-sections than Bengaluru Urban district.

Senior officials in the health department opined that lifestyle changes coupled with a decrease in pain threshold has resulted in the rise in C-section deliveries.

"The lifestyle in rural areas has also changed significantly over the years. Sedentary lifestyle, malnutrition resulting from consumption of junk food, high BMI, hypertension and diabetes among women result in high-risk pregnancies. When there are such underlying conditions, chances of a C-section is high," said Dr Rajkumar N, deputy director, maternal health, health department.

▸ C-section, Page 4

C-section deliveries as percentage of total deliveries in pvt and gov hospitals



Quickly

Dams in Cauvery basin hit full capacity

With a good spell of rains in Mysuru region, the dams in the Cauvery basin have been receiving a good inflow. As the dams remain full to the maximum capacity, the authorities have warned of increasing the outflow appealing to the people to move to safer places.

Details on Page 4

Dissent in NC as MPs question Omar

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is facing an unprecedented rebellion within his own party, with two National Conference (NC) MPs openly questioning his leadership and the functioning of his government. The rare show of dissent, coming from two parliamentarians of his own party—Agha Ruhullah and Mian Altaf Ahmad—has exposed widening cracks within the NC and placed Omar in one of his toughest political moments yet.

21 Naxals surrender

As many as 21 Maoist cadres surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district on Sunday after handing over 18 weapons to authorities, a police official said.

US and China agree on trade framework

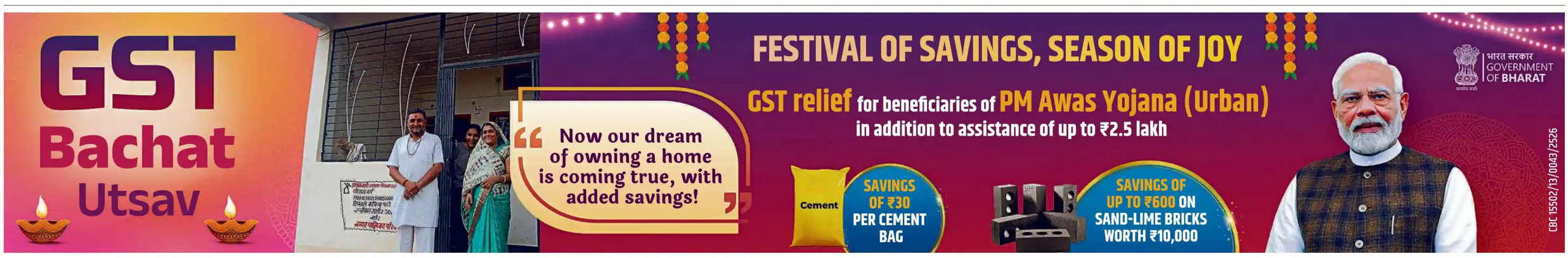
Top Chinese and US economic officials agreed on the framework for a trade agreement on Sunday as President Donald Trump said he was confident of hashing out a deal with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

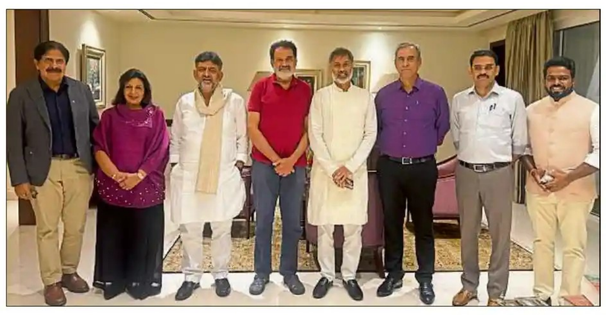
Details on Page 12

Police make arrests over Louvre heist

Police have made arrests in the brazen jewelry heist last week at the Louvre Museum in Paris, French authorities said Sunday, without specifying how many people had been taken into custody.

Details on Page 12


GST
Bachat
Utsav
Now our dream of owning a home is coming true, with added savings!
FESTIVAL OF SAVINGS, SEASON OF JOY
GST relief for beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana (Urban)
in addition to assistance of up to ₹2.5 lakh
Cement
SAVINGS OF ₹30 PER CEMENT BAG
SAVINGS OF UP TO ₹600 ON SAND-LIME BRICKS WORTH ₹10,000
भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF BHARAT
CBC 15502/13/0043/2526



(L-R) Bengaluru Business Corridor Chairman LK Atheeq, Biocon Limited's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, former Infosys board member TV Mohandas Pai, GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao and other officials at the meeting on Sunday.
PHOTO: X (KIRAN MAZUMDAR-SHAW)

After slamming govt over city's infra mess, Shaw & Pai meet DyCM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Days after criticising the state government over Bengaluru's crumbling infrastructure, industry leaders Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and TV Mohandas Pai met Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday.

Details of the meeting were not immediately known.

Shivakumar, however, said he had urged entrepreneurs not to tarnish the city's image through public criticism.

"Entrepreneurs are our brothers and sisters," he said. "But I told them their criticism makes international news. They have given good suggestions for Bengaluru, and we have included them in advisory committees."

Shaw, Chairperson and Managing Director of Biocon Ltd, later wrote on X: "We had a very constructive meeting with Deputy CM D K Shivakumar to agree to an action plan to fix key infra bottlenecks in roads, ORR, PRR, drainage, traffic and garbage."

DK SHIVAKUMAR
Deputy Chief Minister

"Entrepreneurs are our brothers and sisters. But I told them their criticism makes international news. They have given good suggestions for Bengaluru, and we have included them in advisory committees.

The meeting gained significance as both Shaw and Pai have been vocal about the city's deteriorating infrastructure. Shaw recently criticised the government for failing to fix potholes, clear garbage blackspots, and ease traffic congestion.

Their renewed push came after BlackBuck co-founder and CEO Rajesh Yabaji announced his company's plan to move out of Bellandur due to severe commute delays. Pai, a former board member of Infosys Ltd, has also repeatedly flagged the issue of civic mismanagement.

Hebbal–Silk Board tunnel road: MP to discuss options with DKS

Comes amid high court hearing tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bangalore South MP LS Tejasvi Surya will meet Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday to discuss alternatives to the proposed 18-km tunnel road between Hebbal and Silk Board Junction.

"I have requested the DyCM's office for half an hour of his time to discuss the implications of the tunnel road and to discuss the alternative action plans," he said.

Surya has repeatedly opposed the project, stating that it passes through the Lalbagh Botanical Garden and benefits only car owners.

"The government has not carried out an environmental impact assessment, and I do not think the officials responsible for it have informed DK Shivakumar about the implications of the project," he noted.

He said Shivakumar, who is keen on the city's welfare, would drop the plan if he understood its implications.

During the meeting, Surya said he would try to convince the deputy chief minister to shelve the project. "Despite making him aware of the situation and if he still wants to continue with the project, we will continue the case in the high court," Surya said.

A portion of Lalbagh marked for the proposed 18-km tunnel road project in Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

The high court on Tuesday will hear a PIL filed by actor Prakash Belawadi against the tunnel road project. Surya will argue the case.

Shivakumar had earlier called Surya an "empty vessel" and accused him of being against the city's development. He also said Surya could not bring even Rs 10 crore from the Centre.

Replying to the remark, Surya said, "Replying to such accusations is not a big deal, but it will not help the people of the city in any way. If he calls me names and I call him names, will the potholes of the city get repaired? He can say whatever he wants, I will not reply to that."

Surya said the BJP had extended its support to the state government for the Peripheral Ring Road and the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project.

Meeting with Metro MD

Surya and a few BJP MLAs will meet BMRCL Managing Director J Ravishankar on Monday to discuss the fare hike and "flaws" in the fare fixation committee report.

"The BMRCL has gotten basic math wrong, so we will be seeking an explanation from them. They have made an extra Rs 150 crore after the price hike. We had to go to court to even get them to make the fixation report public," he said.

No one, except God, can stop the tunnel project: DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday defended the controversial tunnel road project, saying only Bangalore South MP LS Tejasvi Surya was opposing it.

"I have given him time, let him suggest his solution and if it is good, I will consider it," he said. "No one — except God — can stop me regarding the tunnel project."

Speaking during his 'Walk with Bengaluru' programme, Shivakumar said he was pursuing the project for Bengaluru's future.

"We cannot demolish houses just to widen roads — that would require double the compensation. A tunnel road is a better solution," he said.

A citizen suggested holding a design competition to decide how Bengaluru's roads should be developed. Shivakumar welcomed the idea and asked officials to contact the person for further discussion.

He said the 'Walk with Bengaluru' initiative had received thousands of grievances and would continue with plans to create 10–15 parks like Cubbon Park and Lalbagh.

"The programme will be expanded across the city and held every Saturday and Sunday when I am in Bengaluru," he said.

Kumaraswamy 'an empty trunk'

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar called Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy "an empty trunk" for making "baseless" remarks on converting 'B' khata to 'A' khata.

"He is not educated, he does not have any common sense, and he does not even know what is 'A' khata and 'B' khata. If I have looted, let him take it back from me," he said.

He added that 'B' khatas were created during the BJP's tenure. "Now people have bought properties there, but are unable to get bank loans. We are working to regularise such properties," he said.

The deputy chief minister also spoke about improving the Outer Ring Road tech corridor, where over 10 lakh software engineers work. He has asked his team to speak with all CEOs in the area to resolve their problems.

The central government has not yet given permission for Namma Metro's Red Line. "Metro lines should be extended for the benefit of people. Double-deck flyovers should also be built. The union minister will visit Bengaluru on October 30, and a request will be submitted in this regard. The Centre contributes only 12–13%, while we are funding the rest."

Regarding illegal banners and flexes, he said, "Wherever illegal banners are installed, they will be removed, and cases will be filed against those responsible."

Two arrested for killing mother of four, dumping body in auto

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police in southern Bengaluru on Sunday arrested two men for murdering a 35-year-old mother of four and dumping her body in a stationary autorickshaw.

The suspects have been identified as Subramani, 32, and Senthil, 28, both residents of KHB Colony. They worked as daily wage labourers, taking up painting and autorickshaw driving jobs.

Police said the men were in a relationship with the deceased woman, who had met them after her husband's death a year ago. She lived with her four children in BTB Colony and worked in homes to make ends meet.

On Saturday, the three were drinking together near the spot where the body was later found.

Investigations revealed that Subramani and Senthil suspected the woman of being involved with another man. During an argument, they attacked her and struck her on the head with a blunt object, killing her on the spot.

"They are of the sort who do not need a reason to kill," a police officer told *DH*, describing the suspects.

After realising she was dead, the duo wrapped the body in a cloth and placed it inside an auto parked near the Tilak Nagar police station. The vehicle had been awaiting a buyer.

A passerby noticed the body and informed the woman's mother, Parveen Taj, who then alerted the police.

GP member shot at, survives

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bike-borne assailants shot a gram panchayat member on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Sunday evening.

Police said Saleem Pasha, 50, a member of the Kannegowdanahalli GP and a resident of Islampura, survived the attack. Around 6.30 pm, Pasha was shot at near a mutton stall at 7th Cross in Islampura. He is currently hospitalised, but said to be safe.

The Nelamangala Rural police have registered a case and launched an investigation to identify the assailants.

Smugglers hide sandalwood under onions to mask scent

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Siddappa police have busted an inter-state sandalwood smuggling racket by arresting two Andhra Pradesh men.

Based on a tip-off, the police team seized sandalwood worth over Rs 1 crore after inspecting two vehicles parked near a hotel in Siddapura, south Bengaluru.

Inside the vehicles, officers found sacks of onions stacked above 250 pieces of sandalwood, weighing 750 kg and worth an estimated Rs 1.12 crore.

"The suspects hid them below the onions to mask the scent," a police officer told *DH*.

Police said the two men were waiting to hand over the consignment to a local receiver, identified as Ravi.

The suspects, identified as Sheikh Abdul Khadar and Sheikh Sharukh from Kurnool, allegedly worked for a sandalwood smuggler based in Andhra Pradesh.

Investigators are now probing the extent of the racket's operations in Bengaluru.

5 yrs on, Bommasandra to get effluent treatment plant

State govt acts on NGT directive

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Paying the price for polluting lakes in the Jigani–Bommasandra area, the state government is finally moving ahead with setting up a Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) at a cost of Rs 62.75 crore.

In June 2020, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had imposed a penalty of Rs 15 lakh on the state government and the Bommasandra Town Municipal Council for polluting Kithiganahalli Lake, located behind Narayana Hrudayalaya hospital. In 2022, the tribunal levied another penalty of Rs 500 crore on the government over the pollution of Chandapura Lake.

Five years later, the government has received all necessary clearances for the CETP, which will be developed on a turnkey basis, including operation and maintenance for 10 years. The plant will have a capacity to treat 1.5 million litres of industrial effluent per day. The wastewater matrix includes 700 kld from engineering units, 600 kld from chemical units, and 200 kld from pharmaceutical units.

A 2022 joint committee report had found that only 206 of the 543 industries (less than 40%) in the Bommasandra–Jigani–Veerasandra clusters were sending their waste to existing treatment facilities. The report also tagged these clusters as critically polluted areas.

Officials were asked to develop a tamper-proof system, such as a closed conduit, to pump effluents safely, as transporting waste in tankers often leads to illegal discharge into drains or water bodies. The capital cost of the project was revised from Rs 44.11 crore to Rs 62.75 crore. The works, to be completed in 18 months, will involve an annual recurring cost of Rs 2.5 crore.

"The revised budget incorporates additional components such as pipeline laying and sector-wise collection of effluents. An additional Rs 38 lakh has been allocated for community and environmental improvement activities," the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board told the committee.

Rs 128 cr for UGD

The Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board (KUWSDB) has taken up a Rs 128-crore project to provide underground drainage to 5,200 houses and build a wastewater treatment plant.

"The work on Kithiganahalli Lake has been completed. The KUWSDB's UGD network project will further strengthen the measures taken to protect the lake," said Venkateshappa BR, Chief Officer of the Bommasandra Town Municipal Council.

TN film studio owner booked for harassing dress designer

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Vyalikaval police have booked a Tamil Nadu businessman for allegedly assaulting and harassing a 42-year-old designer in Bengaluru.

Santhosh Reddy, 45, a Chennai-based businessman and owner of a film studio, has been charged under BNS sections 75 (sexual harassment), 115 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 351 (criminal intimidation), based on the victim's complaint.

Police said the woman met Reddy in 2023 after his daughter contacted her regarding a design order. Reddy later offered to invest in the woman's company in Chennai, but she declined after consulting her family. Despite this, the two remained in touch, the FIR stated.

In July 2025, Reddy reportedly visited the victim claiming his daughter had stopped speaking to him and sought her help. During the visit, he allegedly professed his love for her and, when rejected, assaulted and threatened her.

Police have launched an investigation and are verifying the allegations.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Exhibition: Rare photographs of Mahatma Gandhi; Organised by RBANM's Educational Charities; Sabha-BLR, Kamaraj Road; from 12 pm onwards.

Lecture: Ramachandra Guha; Organised by RBANM's Educational Charities; Sabha-BLR, Kamaraj Road; 6.30 pm.

CULTURAL

Drama: 'The Tender For Taj Mahal'; Kavita Sharma and Jagadish Kumar to attend; Organised by Kannada Sahitya Koota; Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Kalakshetra; 5.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.0°C
Minimum	21.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	58%
Sunset (Oct 27)	5:55 pm
Sunrise (Oct 28)	6:12 am
Moonrise	10:02 am
Moonset	9:28 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

DH DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

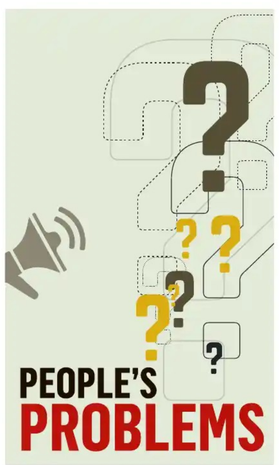
SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: B/TRD.2025-26/22
Dated 18.10.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
[i] OHE modification required for Construction of Track Machine siding at Chik Banavar, Yediyuru, Shravanabelagola (BAW, YY, SBGA) and Nelamangala (NMGA) station length of 420m [ii] OHE modification in connection with the proposed extension of platform B.G. Nagar (BGNR) PF-1&2 by 16 mtr, Hirisave (HISE) PF-1, 2&3 by 20 mtr, Shravanabelagola (SBGA) PF-1, PF-2&3 by 138m each, Channarayapatna (CNPA) PF-1, 2&3 by 140 mtr and 1 compound wall at Channarayapatna (CNPA) station in Asst. Divisional Engineer/ Kunigal sub division. [iii] Pending works after electrification of Chik Banavar - Hassan (BAW-HAS) (Gr.296) sections of Bengaluru (SBC) Division. [iv] TRD works in connection with Engineering track works in Chik Banavar - Hassan (BAW-HAS) Section. [v] OHE modifications in connection with proposed construction of RUB (RCC Box size-15x4.5m) at km. 14/300-400 at Nelamangala (NMGA) station.	Rs. 1,67,87,839.90

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 10.11.2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution/Bengaluru
PUB/579/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

IN THE COURT OF XXV ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-23)
O.S. No. 4564/2025
Between : Prahlada Rao .D, Aged about 59 years, S/o. Vijayendra Rao, No. 100, "Parijatha", 2nd Main, 6th Block, 3rd Phase, 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560 085. & Another. ...Plaintiffs
And : Shantharam and Others ...Defendants
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20(1) OF CPC.
1. Sri. SHANTHARAM, Son of Late. Appu Rao, Aged about 71 years, 2. SMT. RUKMINI, W/o. Shantharam, Aged about 66 years, 3. SMT. SEETHA MAHALAKSHMI @ SEEMA, D/o. Shantharam, Aged about 36 years, 4. SHRI. BALASUBRAMANYA, S/o. Shantharam, Aged about 31 years, All are Residing at No. 24/D, 17th Main, Muneshwara Block, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560 027.
...DEFENDANTS
The Plaintiff had filed a Suit against the Defendants for vacate, quit and handover the vacant possession of the suit schedule property.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the Plaintiff has filed the above suit against you seeking prayer that this Hon'ble Court seeking relief of vacate, quit and handover the vacant passion of the Suit Schedule property and directing to pay arrears of rent and Electricity and water charges amounting to Rs. 2,17,793/-
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of the house constructed on the ground floor os Site No. 24/D, 17th Main Road, 1st Cross, GEF Post, Muneshwara Block, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560 026, measuring to the extent of 36ft x 24 ft bounded on: EAST BY : Site No. 25/D, WEST BY : Road, NORTH BY : Site No. 24/C, SOUTH BY : Road.
It is hereby informed to appear before this HON'BLE COURT OF XXV ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, AT BANGALORE on 28.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. before CCH-23 in person or by pleader duly instructed to answer the claim and you are directed to produce on that day all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of you. Failing which matter will be heard and determined without any claim or objection.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this the 16th day of October 2025.
By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Plaintiff :
SRI. CHANDRASHEKARA .K, Advocate "Chandrodaya", No.435, 9th Block, Sir M. Vishveshwaraiah Layout (Near N.G.E.F Layout), Mallathalli, Bangalore-560 056. Mobile: 9900146028

PUBLIC NOTICE
The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka vide F.No. SEIAA 215 CON 2025 dated 21.10.2025 has issued Environmental Clearance to M/s. Nsure Reliable Power Solutions Private Limited, for the Manufacturing of Lithium-ion cylindrical cells of capacity 35,00,000 no's/month and Lithium-ion cylindrical cells of capacity 50,00,000 no's/month located at Rampura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District as per applicable provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and amended thereafter.
Copy of the clearance certificate is available with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen on the website of the Ministry at https://parivesh.nic.in.



Need a hand? Write to us

Letters of grievances are pouring in and we are doing our best to accommodate as many as possible. Readers may write in to highlight civic problems affecting their locality and we will help address them in an interactive and effective manner.

Grievances and issues related to public utility agencies such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) would be highlighted in the weekly column.

The writeups, which could be accompanied by photographs highlighting the problems, will be published on Mondays. Mail your grievances to: peoplesproblems @ deccanherald.co.in

Pub too close to college

This is to bring to your attention that 'Plan B' bar and pub is located less than 100 metres from the main gate of St Joseph's College of Commerce on Brigade Road. This appears to be a violation of regulations restricting the proximity of liquor outlets to educational institutions. An investigation is warranted into why the police and relevant authorities have not acted on this issue.
Navin Prabhakar

Water wastage in premium trains

In premium trains like the Shatabdi and Vande Bharat, passengers are provided one-litre drinking water bottles. However, many passengers do not finish the water, resulting in significant wastage.

The railways could consider supplying water in smaller quantities, such as 250–300 ml bottles, to reduce wastage and conserve every drop.
V Padmanabhan
Rustam Bagh Main Road

Difficulty in accessing toilets at metro stations

I recently faced difficulty accessing basic amenities, particularly toilets, at major metro stations like Majestic.

Finding a toilet often feels like solving a puzzle without exiting the station, which is a major challenge for commuters, especially during emergencies.

A few days ago, I needed to use the toilet, but struggled to find one due to poor signage.

I punched out of the paid area and approached the counter for help, but the staff did not allow me to use the facility even after I showed my ticket.

The system is especially challenging for certain user groups, including women, children, and those who are uneducated.

How can a woman on her menstrual cycle access a toilet if she has to punch out of the paid area?

The metro authorities should design facilities from a commuter's perspective, balancing safety with the basic necessity of access to toilets.
Vijayababu B
KR Puram

Trash piles mar footpaths near Fraser Town

The footpaths along Stephen's Cross Road and Buddha Vihar Road near Fraser Town have been covered with garbage for several months. The area stinks and looks unsightly. Although BBMP pickup trucks visit daily, they do not clear the waste completely.

The authorities concerned should take immediate action to clean the stretch.
Sabiha Javed

With waste strewn around, the area stinks and looks unsightly.

B'luru set to get 4,500 e-buses; tender on Nov 6

BENGALURU, DHNS: Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a Government of India enterprise under the Ministry of Power, announced on Sunday that it will open a mega tender on November 6 to procure 10,900 electric buses for Bengaluru and four other cities.

At 4,500, Bengaluru will get the lion's share of these buses under the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme launched by the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

The scheme will help the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) expand its fleet to 10,000 vehicles in the next two years. The BMTC's current fleet stands at 7,067, including 1,799 e-buses.

Delhi will get 2,800 e-buses, Hyderabad 2,000, Ahmedabad 1,000 and Surat 600.

CESL, a wholly owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the Ministry of Power, said it had received an "overwhelming" response to its mega tender under India's largest-ever e-bus procurement initiative.

The pre-bid phase witnessed robust participation from domestic and international manufacturers, with bid opening scheduled for November 6, it added.

The successful bidder will be allotted depots, and will create charging infrastructure by collaborating with the respective state transport undertaking, CESL said.

Under the PM E-DRIVE, CESL said feedback from participating cities had been integrated into the tender, aligning bus types, operational parameters and depot requirements with local needs.

CESL's demand aggregation model enables standardisation of specifications, significantly reducing overall costs. In previous rounds, this approach brought down Gross Cost Contract (GCC) rates below diesel and CNG levels, it noted.

To boost investor confidence and ensure timely payments to operators, the government of India launched the PM e-Bus Sewa Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) in October 2024, with an outlay of Rs 3,435 crore for procuring 6,743 buses, according to CESL.

The subsidy will be Rs 35 lakh per standard bus (10-12 metres), Rs 25 lakh (midi bus, 8-10 metres) and Rs 20 lakh (minibus, 6-8 metres).

Only e-buses with an ex-factory price of less than Rs 2 crore will be incentivised. According to CESL, it has awarded 17,838 e-buses under various national programmes since 2022.

GST cut brings sunrise moment for rooftop solar system dealers

Renewed enthusiasm for PM Surya Ghar Yojana

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The slash in Goods and Services Tax (GST) on renewable energy products and their parts from 12% to 5% has increased the interest among citizens to instal solar panels in their residences and office spaces.

Multiple vendors and suppliers told *DH* that over the last few days, the queries have increased by at least 10% and they have seen a slight increase in bookings as well.

"Many new customers have been asking us about prices. Enquiries have gone up by at least 10% as interest among people has increased owing to GST cut," said K L H Raya from the Karnataka Renewable Energy Systems Manufacturers Association (KRESMA).

Yet another vendor, who is working with customers who had opted for the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, said many had put their plans on hold after the GST slash was announced.

"In fact, many of them who had enquired with us earlier had said that they wanted to wait for the GST slash to be implemented and came back only later. There are many new customers also," said a vendor who did not want to be named.

According to an estimate, for a 5kW installation, the cost could come down by Rs 13,000 to Rs 15,000.

Under PM Surya Ghar Yojana, the central government has announced a subsidy of up to Rs 78,000 on installation of rooftop solar panels only in residences.

"The Surya Ghar Yojana itself had triggered interest among many of us. The GST slash has added to it. Many of them think that vendors might adjust the prices in the long run and they might miss the advantage. Hence, they want to get the solar panels installed at the earliest," said Vinod K, a resident of Yelahanka.

While the Surya Ghar Yojana had triggered interest among common people to instal solar panels, the GST slash has now attracted many industrialists and commercial space owners, vendors said.

"For a 5kW installation, charges may be up to Rs 2.8 lakh to Rs 3 lakh. This is a huge investment for any industry or commercial establishment. For bigger establishments, the cost increases even further. The cut in GST has encouraged many to take to green energy," said a vendor who got at least two such orders over the last week.

According to an estimate, for a 5kW installation, the cost could come down by Rs 13,000 to Rs 15,000.

PM praises B'luru techie Kapil Sharma for restoring lakes

His team has revived 40 wells and 6 lakes in city

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday praised the work of IT engineer Kapil Sharma from Bengaluru for his campaign to save lakes.

"Engineer Kapil Sharma ji has done something remarkable in Bengaluru. It is called the city of lakes, and Kapil ji has started a campaign to give a new life to the lakes here. Kapil ji's team has rejuvenated 40 wells and 6 lakes in Bengaluru and surrounding areas. The special thing is that he has also involved corporates and local people in his mission," the PM said in the 127th episode of his radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat.'

Sharma's organization is also associated with tree plantation-campaigns, the PM said.

He founded 'SayTrees' in 2007 — a non-profit organisation dedicated to creating urban and rural forests, planting trees and rejuvenating lakes with support from corporates and the community.

The NGO claimed that it has planted more than 5 million trees, restored 50 lakes in different parts of the country, including Bengaluru and surrounding areas.

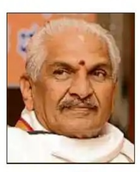
The PM also appreciated a unique programme by Ambikapur Municipal Corporation in Chhattisgarh, to clean up plastic waste from the city.

The corporation runs Garbage Cafes in Ambikapur, where one gets a full meal in exchange for plastic waste. If someone brings over one kilogram of plastic, they are provided with either lunch or dinner, and in lieu of half a kilogram of plastic, they get breakfast.

"The Bengaluru and Ambikapur stories are inspiring examples and show that when you are determined, change is bound to take place," the PM said.

RSS leader Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat booked over 'hate speech'

MANGALURU, DHNS: The Puttur Rural police have registered a case against RSS leader Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat on charges of making a hate speech during a Deepotsava event in Uppalige on October 20, following a complaint by a resident. The event organiser has also been booked.



Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat

The complainant, Eshwari Padmunja of Puttur taluk, alleged that Prabhakar Bhat's speech aired on Kahale News YouTube channel, incited "religious hatred, insulted women's dignity, and threatened public peace."

The complainant further alleged that Prabhakar Bhat's speech included derogatory remarks about Hindu and Muslim communities and references to voter demographics that could incite communal discord.

The Puttur Rural police have registered the case against Bhat and event organisers under sections 79, 196, 299, and 302 and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The Puttur Rural police have issued a notice to Bhat to appear for an inquiry.

According to the police, the notice has been served under Section 35(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, directing him to appear before the investigation officer on October 30, for further investigation related to the case.

BLOWN-UP BUTTERFLY

This mammoth insect is the Atlas Moth. With a wing span of 24 cm, this blown-up member of the butterfly family was captured on camera by Ravi Gowda at Guddehalli near Karwar. Entemologists say this species is widespread in the forests of the state's coastal region. The female is choosy when it comes to laying eggs, selecting leaves of only some trees as platform for procreation. Sadly, it dies soon after laying eggs as if to make way for gen next. The larvae from the hatched eggs feed on the leaves of the same tree before entering the pupal stage and coming out with flying colours, literally.

Buy produce from distressed farmers, Ashoka tells govt

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition in Assembly R Ashoka on Sunday urged CM Siddaramaiah and Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy to procure sunflower, soybean and other crops from distressed farmers.

Taking to X, Ashoka said: "Battered by floods, when farmers tried to sell whatever limited yield they got for good prices, this anti-farmer government is not procuring their produce by giving lame excuses like fruits ID is not there, quality (FAQ) isn't there, not using good gunny sacs and so on. They are harassing farmers." He accused the government of having "completely forgotten" the farmers' woes amid "power struggle".

The LoP accused Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan of standing by the accused who had reportedly "cheated" farmers. Ashoka shared an audio clip on X, where Zameer is purportedly speaking to an SI and asking him to "help" in a case concerning a relative.

"If Cabinet members are only behaving illegally, what's the use of having a Constitution and rules in the state?," he said.

DCM announces Rs 5-cr grant to upgrade Cubbon Park

B'luru's 7 forest areas to be converted into tree parks

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday announced a grant of Rs 5 crore for the development of Cubbon Park.

"Cubbon Park and Lalbagh are iconic places. Citizens have demanded grants for Cubbon Park and we will provide grants from the BDA and horticulture department. We will not allow construction of any kind inside Cubbon Park," he said, while interacting with walkers and citizens during his 'Walk with Bengaluru' programme in Cubbon Park.

He said Rs 10 crore had already been announced for the development of Lalbagh.

Shivakumar said discussions were underway on organising cultural programmes inside the premier lung space.

S Umesh Kumar, president of Cubbon Park Walkers' Association, submitted a petition highlighting that the park, once spread over 330 acres, had now reportedly shrunk to 196 acres due to relentless encroachment.

"All leased buildings inside the park should be cleared," he said.

The deputy chief minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to preserving Bengaluru's lung spaces and pledged "whatever is required" for Cubbon Park's protection, including removal of encroachments.

He announced the installation of high-tech cameras for enhanced safety inside Cubbon Park, with the feed monitored at the police commissioner's office.

He said the government was working on creating tree parks on the lines of Cubbon Park and Lalbagh across Bengaluru. He unveiled a major plan to protect and preserve forest areas in the city.

"All seven important forest lands have been identified. They will be protected and converted into parks by the corporation," he said.

Citizens requested that major roads, like those in Chickpet, be white-topped. The DyCM said the pros and cons of the proposal would be discussed with officials as also reviewing the proposal to increase fines for violators of road rules. Parking issues near the high court would be resolved, he said.

DKS promises action on civic woes

BENGALURU, DHNS

The 'Walk with Bengaluru' programme saw Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar engage with citizens after a morning walk at Cubbon Park on Sunday. The citizens aired a diverse range of civic and infrastructural grievances, chief among them being the park's shrinking green cover and proposed commercialisation.

During the walk, the deputy chief minister paid homage to the statues of former Mysore ruler Chamaraja Wadiyar and the erstwhile Dewan of the Mysore Kingdom K Seshadri Iyer. He interacted with walkers, addressing grievances, petting a Siberian Husky, and wishing a musician who was performing.

The public grievances extended across the city's core infrastructure. A citizen named Vijaya highlighted the lack of basic amenities and drainage from Lalbagh West Gate to Minerva Circle in Mavalli, while Rajashekar requested a 50-year lease extension for occupants of Pottery Town.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar shakes hands with a boy during the former's "Walk with Bengaluru" programme at Cubbon Park on Sunday. CREDIT: DCM OFFICE

The DCM stated that he had heard thousands of problems across various parks that he visited during weekends, receiving 35 petitions alone in Cubbon Park, adding to the 289 petitions already collected during grievance redress events held at Lalbagh, JP Park, KR Puram, Koramangala and Kengeri. Attention was drawn to the street lighting system, pedestrian overpass system and Kachenahalli Road, damaged trees and branches, and the absence of streetlights at Mysore Bank Circle.

"People have requested that special attention be paid to the problem of stray dogs. Discussions will be held with the concerned authorities to address the problem of private buses and upgrade the Indira Gandhi Children's Library. It has been requested that an Ayurvedic garden be established. All these problems and demands will be resolved as early as possible," he said. Shivakumar promised an investigation into allegations that party candidates are being given tickets for money.

Coast Guard rescues 31 fishermen from snag-hit vessel

MANGALURU, DHNS

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) HQ 3 (Karnataka) successfully rescued 31 fishermen from the distressed fishing boat - IFB Sant Anton-I, which was adrift in the Arabian Sea for 11 days due to a steering gear failure.

The Indian Coast Guard launched a Search and Rescue (SAR) operation on October 24 after receiving information about the missing vessel from Goa. The fishing boat was last reported approximately 100 nautical miles off New Mangalore port.

ICGS Kasturba Gandhi, which was on routine patrol, was immediately diverted to the last known position of the distressed vessel. Simultaneously, a Coast Guard Dornier aircraft from Kochi was tasked for an aerial search to locate the missing boat, which had drifted significantly due to adverse weather conditions.

Vessel from Indian Coast Guard (ICG) HQ 3 (Karnataka) approaching the fishing boat IFB Sant Anton-I, that was in distress in mid sea.

Leveraging integrated operations centre and real time weather data, the Coast Guard plotted the probable drift and directed the ship to the updated location.

On October 25, the Dornier aircraft successfully sighted the fishing boat, enabling ICGS Kasturba Gandhi to reach the spot and provide critical assistance, including logistics support, damage assessment, and on-site repair of the steering system and ensuring watertight integrity of the IFB.

After stabilising the vessel, the Coast Guard ship handed over the IFB Sant Anton-I to another IFB to tow it to Honnavar fishing harbour.

Lifestyle change, fear of pain...

C-section, from Page 1

Doctors in rural areas opined that pain threshold among women has decreased and many women choose C-section assuming it is safer than normal delivery. "We have seen many women who would have heard about their ancestors suffering or dying during a normal delivery and this would have had an impact. Now, when they know medical science has advanced and C-section is safe, many of them request us to perform it rather than waiting for delivery pain," said a doctor.

In urban areas, there are new issues that have resulted in a higher rate of C-section deliveries, doctors said.

"Urban women tend to delay pregnancy due to career or education, and older mothers have higher risk of complications and end up with C-section deliveries," said Dr Tasneem Nishah Shah, lead consultant, obstetrics and gynaecology and robotic surgery at a well-known hospital in Whitefield.

Many of them also schedule the delivery based on auspicious timing and date, doctors pointed out. That apart, women are also worried about sexual pleasure postpartum, doctors said.

"Many of them think that a normal vaginal birth could reduce sexual pleasure postpartum and are concerned about it. There is a misconception that sexual life will not be satisfactory after normal delivery. Such factors combined with fear of pain pushes many young mothers to opt for a planned C-section delivery," said Dr Pranathi Aravind, senior consultant, department of obstetrics and gynaecology at a hospital in Kengeri.

Route march: Peace meet notices issued to RSS, others

KALABURAGI, DHNS: The district administration has issued notices to 10 organisations, including the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, which have planned route march/ protest march in Chittapur on November 2, asking them to appear for a peace meet on October 28.

The peace meet is being held on the directions of the Kalaburagi bench of the High Court of Karnataka.

Copious rains in catchment areas fill Cauvery basin dams

Outflows from dams may go up, authorities sound alert

GAYATHRI V RAJ
MYSURU, DHNS

With the catchment areas in Karnataka and Kerala receiving incessant rain, the reservoirs in Cauvery basin - Hemavathi dam in Gorur, Hassan district, and Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) dam in Mandya district, and Kabini in Mysuru district - have been clocking copious inflows.

The inflows into the reservoirs in Cauvery basin are expected to go further up as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy rains in Kerala, including Wayanad, Kannur, Kozhikode and other areas for the next two days.

The KRS dam clocked an inflow of 30,079 cusec on October 25. The dam has already reached its maximum level of 124.80 feet, and maximum storage capacity of 49.452 tmcft. The surplus water of 29,822 cusec was discharged into Cauvery river on October 26.

In fact, the KRS dam, the lifeline of southern districts, reached its maximum level for the first time in the month of June, this season, a record in 93 years of its construction.

A view of water being discharged from the Krishnaraja Sagar dam in Srirangapatna taluk, Mandya district. As much as 29,822 cusec of water was released downstream on Sunday. DH PHOTO

Similarly, Hemavathi dam has also reached its full reservoir level of 2,922 feet for the eighth time in the year, on Sunday. The inflow was 17,962 cusec and outflow 12,320 cusec.

The water level of the Kabini dam in H D Kote taluk was 2,283.96 feet as against its maximum level of 2,284 feet. The inflow was 5,427 cusec while the outflow 5,325 cusec.

Outflows to go up

With the outflow from the KRS and Hemavathi reservoirs expected to increase due to unyielding rain in their catchments, the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd and Hemavathi dam authorities have issued a flood warning, appealing to people living along the river banks to move to safer places.

According to senior officials of IMD, Karnataka state recorded 4% excess rain during Southwest monsoon, between June and September.

However, the South interior region of the Cauvery basin has recorded 9% deficit rainfall, and Malnad region 7% deficit rainfall. But due to good inflow during the season, the water levels of the dams in Cauvery basin was full with good storage levels.

The officials also predict above normal Northeast monsoon this year.

8,000 zero-enrolment schools...

Schools, from Page 1

A senior official in the education ministry noted that since education is a state subject, state governments have been advised to address this issue by merging schools, optimising infrastructure and rationalising staff deployment.

One the other hand, there were over one lakh schools which had only one teacher, with Andhra Pradesh accounting for the highest number of such schools, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Lakshadweep. In all, over 33 lakh students were in these schools.

HC facing space constraints...

HC, from Page 1

"We're trying to identify an alternative place that will be suitable for both petitioners and lawyers. Some lawyers had called upon me and suggested the Race Course land. We will review the legal obstacles and make a decision," he added.

The proposal to relocate the high court is not new. A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition has been pending on the matter for decades. Due to space constraints, the basement is also being utilised. But there is still not enough space for judges' chambers.

High-rises likely...

Tunnel, from Page 1

"The land for these hubs shall be provided to the concessionaire by the government," the tender document notes, adding that all assets must be handed back to the state on an "as-is, where-is basis" after the concession period ends, which could be as long as 44 years.

The tender document also states that the concessionaire will be granted 100% rights over ancillary revenues from these intermodal hubs. Other than commercial activities, the project allows toll collection from passenger vehicles and buses for 34 years, extendable by another decade if revenues fall short. Advertisement rights are also part of the revenue package.

'Unprecedent relaxation'

At present, Bengaluru permits a maximum FSI of 3.25 along 100 feet roads. The last major attempt to raise it to four for areas around metro stations in 2007 was withdrawn following public backlash. Even under the Transferable Development Rights (TDR) scheme, only a 60% additional FAR can be loaded.

The new relaxation — FSI 5 — therefore marks a drastic departure from city planning norms and will require an amendment to the Revised Master Plan (RMP).

Another tender clause says the five intermodal hubs, which are also the shaft locations, will have foundations designed to support 5 basement + ground + 15-storey commercial or industrial buildings. Builders familiar with the terms said such relaxations could allow towers up to 40 floors on plots as small as 5,000 sq metres.

Officials from Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd, which is executing the project, insisted the commercial component was optional. "The bidder is expected to return the building after the concession period. We have kept it optional because bidders may prefer low-rise structures on the available land rather than investing in high-rises as its a leased property," a senior official said.

Satya Arikutharam, an independent consultant, called the plan "perverse mobility planning" rooted in flawed priorities. "The structure of the bid ensures that developers must maximise real estate revenue to offer lower toll recovery values and improve their winning chances," he said, adding the proposal will lead to unwanted real estate development.

"The tunnel road itself is not a sustainable mobility solution. Although presented as a traffic congestion relief project, it will generate more traffic by allowing new commercial activities."

Opposition to caste census 'irrational & against welfare of the marginalised'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Speakers at a panel discussion held on Sunday said resistance to the ongoing socio-educational survey (caste census) by dominant castes was "irrational and against the welfare of the marginalised and the state."

The discussion, organised by 'Bahutva Karnataka,' a citizens' group, featured Prof A Narayana, academic and writer; Prof R Sunandamma, former HoD, Women's Studies Dept, Karnataka Women's University; Dr Azhar, research scholar, and Anisha Sheth, journalist.

Prof Narayana said it was a matter of concern that a simple data collection exercise had generated so much opposition.

He also mentioned that development in India generally favours some groups over the others and there is a need to study that to ensure more egalitarian development. But in the absence of relevant data other than the 1931 census data, this survey is extremely important.

Prof Sunandamma said that the 2015 survey report had some lacunae as it did not substantiate some of its findings.

Dr Azhar mentioned that reports of the previous Backward Classes Commissions had established that religious minorities of the state, especially Christians and Muslims, are underdeveloped based on a range of criteria including education, employment, sex ratio, etc.

He said that while many state governments have set up schemes for the welfare of minorities, there are no policies for their development. This survey, he hoped, would help frame policies for the social and educational development of minorities.

He also drew attention to the fact that while money is allotted for minority welfare schemes, the funds are not utilised fully.

Sheth said the commission and the government had "failed" to communicate why the survey was important, and the constitutional framework and laws under which it was being done.

She mentioned that dominant castes opposed the previous survey calling it unscientific without suitable justification. She asked how a survey which covered 94% of the state could be termed unscientific.

Bus tragedy: Forensic report...

Bus tragedy, from Page 1

"...According to the RFSL report, traces of alcohol were found in the viscera samples of the deceased. Based on this report, it was determined that he was driving under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident," the SP said.

The police further said a separate case had been registered at Ulindakonda police station against Siva Sankar, based on a complaint filed by his friend Yerriswami, who survived the mishap. The FIR includes sections 281, 125(A) and 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), relating to rash driving and causing death by negligence.

Meanwhile, the police have also filed an FIR against the driver of the ill-fated bus and the owner of V Kaveri Travels under Sections 125(A) and 106(1) of the BNS, holding them responsible for negligence that led to the devastating inferno. The driver, Miriyala Laxmiah, has been named as Accused No. 1 and the owner, Vemuri Vinod Kumar, as Accused No 2, following a complaint from a passenger.

US-Pak ties growing but...

US-Pak, from Page 1

Trump had last month hosted Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who lauded him for facilitating the May 10 ceasefire that ended a four-day cross-border military flare-up between the Islamabad and New Delhi.

"So, I think the Indians are very mature when it comes to diplomacy and things of that nature. Look, they have some relationships with countries that we don't have relationships with. So, it's part of a mature, pragmatic foreign policy," said Rubio, who might have a meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur on Monday. "I don't think anything we're doing with Pakistan comes at the expense of our relationship or friendship with India, which is deep, historic, and important," added the US secretary of state.

Trump has over the past few days repeatedly claimed to have received an assurance from Modi about India slashing oil imports from Russia. A spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, in response to the claim from Washington, D.C., had on October 16 stated that India's import policies had been entirely guided by the objective of safeguarding the interests of consumers in the country.

"I think India has already expressed an interest in diversifying their oil portfolio and who they buy from," said Rubio.

Govt issues circular to GPs on plan approval

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department has issued guidelines to Gram Panchayats on measures to be followed while granting approval for layouts formed in converted lands – except those in local planning area.

According to the circular, the areas in the layout earmarked for roads, parks, civic amenities and other basic amenities must be transferred to the government free of cost under a registered relinquishment deed executed by the layout developer.

Bangarappa, Urs, Siddaramaiah listened to conscience, gave pro-people schemes: Writer

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

Noted writer S G Siddaramaiah said on Sunday that former chief ministers S Bangarappa, D Devaraj Urs and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah were among leaders who listened to their conscience and implemented pro-people schemes.

This in an era when people's representatives lose their credibility once they are elected to positions of power, but the three stalwarts stood out from the lot, he said.

The writer was addressing a symposium on S Bangarappa's thoughts on the occasion of his 93rd birth anniversary organised by the S Bangarappa Foundation and Vichara Vedike at Sorab in the district.

"The socialist movement was not just an idea for Bangarappa. He implemented its ideals through a number of schemes. Among them were Ashraya, under which eight lakh beneficiaries got homes of their own in just six months, and the Vishwa scheme that aimed at decentralisation of power by setting up cottage industries," he said.

The former chief minister was also the harbinger of the programme to provide free electricity to farmers' irrigation pumpsets and the practice of giving grace marks for rural students, Siddaramaiah said.

"Bangarappa stood by his beliefs in public life and his policies were environment friendly," the writer said.

Addressing the gathering, chairman of the Karnataka Nataka Akademi K V Nagaraja Murthy said, "Bangarappa was deeply influenced by the ideals of socialist leader Shantaveri Gopala Gowda. Socialist principles guided him throughout his life, not just when he was the chief minister. He was instrumental in the shifting of the power balance from the powerful to the oppressed classes".

The former chief minister strove for the upliftment of the oppressed classes and his socialist thoughts were reflected in the five guarantees implemented by the present government under Siddaramaiah, Murthy said. Vedike president Venugopal Nayak, noted writer Kalegowda Nagawara and others were present.

Former DG&IGP L Revanasiddaiah receives the 'Bangara' award, on behalf of Bengaluru-based Gubbi Thotadappa Dharmashala, presented on the occasion of the 93rd birth anniversary of former chief minister S Bangarappa organised by the S Bangarappa Foundation and Vichara Vedike at Sorab in Shivamogga district on Sunday. Ministers K H Muniyappa, Madhu S Bangarappa, Santosh Lad, Joint Managing Director of The Printers (Mysore) Pvt Ltd K N Tilak Kumar, MLA Belur Gopalakrishna and others are seen.

Santosh Lad bats for 75% reservation for BCs

Labour Minister Santosh Lad has said that the government would be urged to provide 75% reservation for all communities in Backward Classes, based on the report of the ongoing Social and Educational Survey.

Speaking at a programme to mark the 93rd birth anniversary of former chief minister late S Bangarappa in Sorab on Sunday, Lad said that Tamil Nadu had already provided 69% reservation for Backward Classes and the same model should be emulated in Karnataka also.

He said Bangarappa came to the rescue of farmers by providing free power supply to irrigation pumpsets. Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister K H Muniyappa also spoke on the occasion.

Farmer killed in tiger attack

MYSURU, DHNS: A 65-year-old farmer was killed in a tiger attack near the border of Nugu wildlife range of Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Mysuru district on Sunday afternoon.

The deceased is Rajashekhar of Bennegere in Saragur taluk. He was herding the cattle at the farm around 3 km from the village, when the tiger attacked him. Rajashekhar died on the spot. He is survived by his wife, son and mother. Puttasiddegowda, who was with Rajashekar, screamed for help after sighting the tiger and had a lucky escape.

Forest department personnel and police officials are camping at the spot. HD Kote MLA Anil Chikkamadu visited the village and consoled the family members.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has condoled the death of the farmer. In a press release, the minister has appealed to the people herding cattle near the forest area and those residing at the villages on the fringes of the forest to be cautious.

The Forest department authorities have been directed to immediately capture the tiger and provide compensation to the deceased's family.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

OBITUARY
Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Neelakanta Iyer
Mar 2,1938 - Oct 21, 2025
You lived life with such grace, strength, dignity and generosity, touching each one with your sincere love and affection.
We will miss your smile and presence, but will be in our hearts forever.
Brinda and Raja,
Grandsons Arun, Ashwin and family
Her dearest Brindavan Kottayam & Jayanagar 45 families.

DH Classifieds

JOB OPPORTUNITIES
HRD & Admin
WANTED FEMALE Office Assistant Any Degree Knowing Tally, Fluent In English, Kannada, Hindi Around Rajajinagar Contact: 9108458798/ 9845579620

PERSONAL
Change of Name
I, SUCHARITHA. M.V. SARABU age 49 years, W/o. ASHOK SARABU residing at Flat No.004, VM Grandeur, Jayanthi Nagar, Horamavu, Bangalore- 560043, have changed my name from ORUGANTI MADHUPA VENKATA SUCHARITHA to SUCHARITHA. M.V. SARABU for all future purposes and documents vide affidavit dated 25/10/2025 before Notary G.B. Turamari Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

RENTAL PROPERTIES
Accommodation Available
Commercial
FOR RENT Independent Corner Building Suitable for Showroom Space @Jayanagar 4th Block 100Ft Road of 10,000Sqft. With Basement/ Ground/1st/2nd/3rd &4th Floor Each Floor 2400Sqft. With Lift,Parking,DG Power Suitable for Jewellary/Textile/ Saree Etc. Call-9901453477
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY RENT Grnd flr, 2750 sqft Beml layout 3rd stage Rajarajeshwari nagar Bangalore 9945479966
FOR RENT Independent Corner Building Suitable for Showroom Space @BSK II STAGE, Wide Roads of 15,000Sqft. With Stilt,Ground, 1st/2nd/3rd/4th Terrace Each Floor 3000 Sqft With Lift,Parking,DG Power Suitable for Jewellary/Textile/ Saree/Hospital,Etc. Call-9901453477
FOR RENT Independent Building Suitable for Showroom Space @Kanakapura Road, J.P.NAGAR Metro Signal Near Piller No-74 of 2500-6000 Sqft. Ground Floor with Parking, DG Power Suitable for Automobile/Jewellary/ Textile/Saree, Etc. Call-9901453477

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL
Water Proofing
LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology-9880916988

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to notify the General Public that our client proposes to enter into a Joint Development Agreement to develop and sell the below mentioned Schedule Property with Sri.Krishna Saidapet Mohan, Son of Sri.S.Ram Mohan, Residing at No.30, Park View, Park Road,Tasker Town, Shivajinagar, Bangalore North, H.K.P.Road, Bangalore – 560051, who has represented that he acquired right, title, interest, ownership and possession to Schedule Property in terms of (1) Sale Deed dated 29/04/2000, registered as Document No.274/2000-01, in Book-I, Volume 109, at Pages 79 in the Office of Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore and (2) Will dated 12/02/2006, executed by Sri.S.Ram Mohan. Person/s objecting for the proposed development or having any right in the Schedule Property may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within 15 days from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on our client and our client will proceed to develop and sell the Schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.
:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:
All that piece and parcel of Property being a Site with a old Residential building bearing Municipal No.29, situated at Park Road, Tasker Town, Ward No.63/ Jayamahal, (Old Ward No.78), PID No.78-56-29, Bangalore and site totally measuring 3696 Square Feet and bounded by :-
East : Munshi Akbar Hussain Road;
West : Private Property No.28;
North : Conservancy Lane; and
South : Park Road.
YASEEN BABU,
K.M. LEGAL ADVOCATES,
No.1C, 'WILOCRISA', # 14, Rest House Crescent Road, BANGALORE-560001. Ph : +91 9845855933
Email: kmlegaladvocates@gmail.com
Place: Bangalore Date: 27/10/2025

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

COUNTER

"The Opposition alliance is like 'Mungerilal ke haseen sapne' and it is like 'ek anaar sau bimaar. The opposition alliance will collapse under the weight of its own conflicts and contradictions

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi
BJP leader

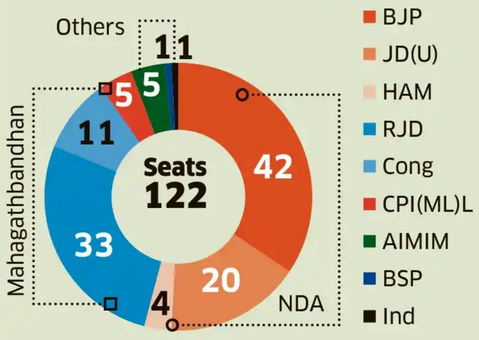
V/S

The time has come to free the state from the BJP-JD(U) government that has been in power for the past two decades."

Dipankar Bhattacharya
CPI(ML) L general secretary

BATTLE FOR BIHAR

2025 Phase 2 (122 seats)
How it is stacked up as per 2020 results



NDA	66
Mahagathbandhan	49
Others	7

Polling: **Nov 11** | Candidates in fray: **1,302** | Counting: **Nov 14**

Poll diary

Kharge, Rahul among Cong's 40 star campaigners

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Kanhaiya Kumar and Independent MP Pappu Yadav are among the party's 40 star campaigners for the first phase of the Bihar assembly polls.

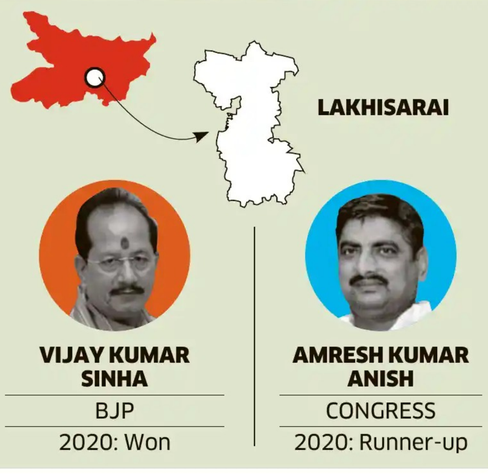
Sitting MLA among 16 rebel leaders expelled from JD(U)

Cracking down on rebellion in the party ahead of the assembly elections, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) expelled 16 leaders, including a sitting MLA and two former ministers, most of whom have entered the fray against official NDA candidates. The expulsions have been announced in two separate communications issued, one on late Saturday and the other on Sunday, in which the rebel leaders have been charged with "anti-party activities" and violation of the ideology of JD(U). Among those who have been expelled is Narendra Niraj alias Gopal Mandal, the sitting MLA from Gopalpur in Bhagalpur district, who remains in the news, mostly for wrong reasons.

Nitish has been face of Bihar for 20 years: Nitin Nabin

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has been the face of Bihar for 20 years, and he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have brought politics of development to the state, Road Construction Minister Nitin Nabin said. Nabin, a BJP leader, also questioned the popularity of Mahagathbandhan's chief ministerial face Tejashwi Yadav, claiming that the RJD leader is unpopular even in his own party and family. The minister also took a jibe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and questioned why he has not come to Bihar to address any rally so far, quipping that his rallies help the ruling NDA.

CONSTITUENCY WATCH



VIJAY KUMAR SINHA	AMRESH KUMAR ANISH
BJP	CONGRESS
2020: Won	2020: Runner-up

Bihar's choice between past, present and pre-Mandal

BJP banks on fear of Lalu-era lawlessness; RJD warns voters of upper-caste resurgence

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

After Deepavali, as the Bihar election campaign enters its last leg, both the I.N.D.I.A bloc and the NDA have doubled down on their campaign, taking the battle to the Opposition camp. Freebies and development promises notwithstanding, the broader theme of the election is veering towards caste and social faultlines, with both sides attempting to dig up the ghost of the past to resurrect the present narrative.

Top NDA leaders have sought to underscore the fear of 'jungle raj' during Lalu Yadav's undisputed rule of the state between 1989 and 2005. The resurrection of the Lalu regime or the fear of it, should the RJD come to power, is a common refrain at BJP rallies.

Modi's 'lath' strike

In his first campaign rally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the Mahagathbandhan a 'lath-bandhan', an oblique reference to (lath) stick-wielding local strongmen during Lalu's tenure, aimed at reminding the electorate of the post-Mandal Bihar in the nineties.

For those who have lived through that decade, the imagery may strike a chord. But for others born at the turn of the century, who have all their lives lived under Nitish Kumar's rule, the Lalu Raj may get lost in the political construct of the self, especially among the aspirational class, in the digital age.

Which is precisely the reason why Modi, in an address to BJP workers last week, urged his cadre to tell people, especially youth and women, about people's suffering during the RJD's "jungle raj".

Target audience

The target audience for the campaign can broadly be divided into two groups. One, the Hindu upper castes who shifted to the BJP after the Mandal-Kamandal disruption in 1989. The second, and the critical segment, that the BJP is trying to address is the non-Yadav backward caste that united under Nitish's leadership to challenge and subsequently end Lalu's rule.

To counter the BJP, the RJD has tried to turn the clock further back. Its strategy is an acknowledgement of Nitish's unique positioning in the Bihar politics. In alliance with the RJD, he offers protection to numerically smaller yet cumulatively strong, extremely backward classes against Yadav domination. When he's with the BJP, Nitish provides a similar buffer against an upper caste assertion.

When the RJD underscores the point in its rallies that Nitish's position as chief minister remains uncertain after the elections, it is indirectly trying to trigger a larger backward-dalit mobilisation by alluding that the NDA's victory would mean the return of upper-caste hegemony, a pre-Mandal situation of 1989.

CM messaging

This also explains why, after initial ambiguity, state BJP leaders like Deputy CM Samrat Chaudhary have had to come out with statements confirming that Nitish will remain Bihar CM after the elections.

In the end, the Bihar elections may go down to who can assuage the concern of the weaker sections and win their trust by convincing them that the deviations of the past would not be repeated. The outcome may depend on who the voters trust more. The political discourse is offering three choices: Nitish Raj, Lalu Raj and a pre-Mandal-Kamandal Raj.

GHOSTS OF GOVERNANCE

- Campaign intensifies after Deepavali
- Caste and social faultlines dominate discourse
- BJP invokes fear of 'jungle raj' under Lalu rule
- RJD highlights Nitish's role as buffer against caste dominance

Will throw Waqf Act in dustbin, says Tejashwi

BJP asks how a state chief minister can alter a central law

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav addresses a press conference in Patna, on Sunday. PTI

The Opposition's chief-ministerial candidate in the Bihar Assembly elections, Tejashwi Yadav, on Sunday asserted that if the Mahagatbandhan and the I.N.D.I.A bloc came to power in Bihar, the Waqf (Amendment) Act would be repealed.

"If we are voted to power, we will throw the Waqf Act into the dustbin," said Tejashwi at a public rally in Muslim-dominated Katihar and Kishanganj.

He said RJD chief Lalu Prasad, his father, always stood for minorities, "unlike Nitish Kumar, who supports the RSS and the BJP and helps spread communal hatred in the state as well as in the country".

The RJD leader said those abusing the minority community in no uncertain terms, calling them "infiltrators" and saying they don't need their votes, "are asking me whether there will be a Muslim DyCM or not in my Cabinet".

"The BJP is jealous that we have announced an extremely backward class (EBC) leader, Mukesh Sahani, as our DyCM candidate. The same BJP is also worried whether Muslims, who comprise around 18% of the population, will have a DyCM from their community or not. Waqt aayega, toh woh bhi ho jayega (If such a time comes, it will also happen)," said Tejashwi, dropping ample hints about the possibility of two DyCMs if the I.N.D.I.A bloc was voted to power.

Tejashwi's Waqf statement drew the BJP's ire: It asked whether a state CM could alter a central law.

Notably, I.N.D.I.A-bloc leaders have opposed the Waqf (Amendment) Act, passed by Parliament in April, saying it infringed on a community's rights.

Meanwhile, the NDA defended it, saying it empowered backward Muslims and women.

BIHAR VOTES

Panchayat sops

Tejashwi also vowed to double the allowances of representatives of Bihar's Panchayat Raj system. "We will substantially increase the margin money of PDS (public distribution system) distributors as well," he claimed.

Doling out sops for other social groups, Tejashwi said his regime would provide Rs 5 lakh interest-free loans to barbers, carpenters, and those in the pottery business.

A couple of days ago, he announced a hike in the salary of Jeevika Didis to Rs 30,000, besides an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh for each of them. He also announced making all contractual government employees permanent if voted to power.

POWER DYNAMICS

Union Minister Chirag Paswan with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during Chhath Puja festival celebration at his residence, in Patna, Sunday. PTI

Nitish, Chirag in show of unity

PATNA, PTI: Former bete noires Nitish Kumar and Chirag Paswan, who head JD(U) and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) respectively, put up a show of solidarity when the former visited the latter's house to partake "kharna prasad" prepared on the eve of Chhath on Sunday.

Later, Paswan, now a Union minister, who had a few years ago charged the CM with having humiliated his late father Ram Vilas Paswan, fulminated against "false narratives of the Opposition", which he blamed for reports in a section of the media that Kumar had been upset with the seat-sharing deal in the NDA.

CPI(ML)L vows loan waivers, liquor ban review

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Review of prohibition law and implementation of a "fair and just" policy, regulation of microfinance exploitation, loan waivers for various sections, 65% quota regime, land for the landless, and ban on eviction of poor before proper rehabilitation are among a slew of commitments made in the CPI(ML) L manifesto for Bihar elections, which the party said will align with the promises of I.N.D.I.A bloc.

Unemployed youths are promised Rs 3,000 per month and immediate recruitment to all vacant posts. A monthly honorarium of Rs 2,500 and a monthly old-age pension of Rs 1,500 are also promised in the 'Parivartan Sankalp Patra', which came ahead of the I.N.D.I.A bloc's manifesto that is likely to echo most of these promises.

Establishment of a uniform education system, regulation of private education, strict law against paper leaks, and an increase in scholarship amounts are part of the manifesto released in Bhojpur after a 10-km 'padayatra' from Ekwari village to the banks of the River Sone in the presence of party General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya.

Modi factor meets regional realities in high-stakes polls

It remains to be seen whether he can once again tilt the political math in NDA's favour

ASHISH PANDEY
WEST CHAMPARAN, DHNS

Even after all these years, the BJP's biggest asset remains Narendra Modi's charisma and pan-India appeal.

Like every major election in the past decade, especially since the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, the 'Modi factor' remains a dominant factor in the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections. Yet its influence remains complex, conditional and contested.

While the Prime Minister continues to be a central campaign figure for the NDA in Bihar, his appeal must be in sync with caste coalitions, regional aspirations, and electoral engineering. Crucially, the saffron party cannot afford to overlook youth anxiety or the economic uplift of one of India's least developed states.

Even after all these years, the BJP's biggest asset remains Modi's charisma and pan-India appeal. Not just BJP leaders, even alliance partners invoke his leadership in campaign messaging.

In recent weeks alone, the PM unveiled a flurry of welfare schemes, inaugurated mega development projects and launched youth-focused initiatives in Bihar — ranging from PM-SETU to a revamped Mukhyamantri Nishchay Swayam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana, and a special credit card for students.

In financial transfers, 75 lakh women across the state received Rs 10,000 each, amounting to Rs 7,500 crore — a move that may well be timed to shape political sentiment.

'Copying Karnataka'

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh dismissed the move as a replica of Karnataka's Griha Lakshmi scheme, under which 1.3 crore women receive Rs 2,000 per month. He also accused the BJP of indulging in both "vote-chori" and "vote-revadi".

In Bihar, voters often prioritise regional leadership and state-specific issues over national narratives — as the 2015 Assembly results showed. Despite the BJP's high-voltage campaign, the Mahagathbandhan (JD(U), RJD and Congress) secured a decisive victory. When pitted against a strong regional satrap like the RJD, the central appeal can lose its edge.

Nitish Kumar's long-standing dominance as Bihar's political pivot further complicates the BJP's ambition to go it alone. Over the past few years, the BJP has steadily expanded its influence within the NDA in Bihar, but largely at the expense of its ally, JD(U).

The BJP faces a delicate balancing act in Bihar. If it goes all out and Modi's imprint becomes too dominant, Nitish's support base may feel sidelined — a risk increased by the backdrop of anti-incumbency.

In sum, Modi's appeal remains a key weapon in the BJP's Bihar arsenal, but is it decisive? That depends on several factors: the traction of central policies among locals, and the weight of anti-incumbency against Nitish, who has held office for nearly 25 years. Together, these forces will shape the state's verdict on November 14.

Red rift in Kerala: CPI weighs protest amid PM SHRI row

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

LEFT TENSIONS

- CPI angry over CPM's MoU with Centre for PM SHRI in schools
- CPI state executive to meet today to decide next steps
- CPM assures safeguards against BJP-RSS influence in school curriculum
- Cong invites CPI to join UDF, but alliance dynamics may not favour CPI

The CPI in Kerala remains agitated over the CPM, which leads the ruling Left Democratic Front, signing a memorandum of understanding with the Centre for the PM SHRI scheme in state schools, but the party is unlikely to take any drastic step, such as exiting the front.

The CPI state executive is set to meet on Monday to decide its future course of action.

The Congress has already extended an open invitation to the CPI, which is the second-largest party in the LDF, with 16 MLAs, including four ministers. However, given the current political landscape in Kerala, the CPI seems inclined to stay within the LDF for now, and for various reasons.

Any shift to the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) may prove uncomfortable for the CPI. While the party currently holds the second position within the LDF, it's unlikely to enjoy a similar status in the UDF, where the Indian Union Muslim League and KC(J) are long-standing allies of the Congress.

The LDF, under Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, has already launched a strong campaign for a third consecutive term in the 2026 elections. Staying in power in Kerala is crucial for both the CPM and CPI, given that it remains the only state where the communist parties still hold office.

Political analyst Jacob George notes that the CPI is likely to stay close to the CPM, recalling the party's bitter experience in the 1965 elections following the CPI-CPM split. The CPI won just three seats, while the CPM secured 40.

The CPI leadership is under pressure to save face and pacify its youth and student wings, which have already protested the PM SHRI agreement.

Meanwhile, the CPM is working to reassure the CPI by promising safeguards against BJP-RSS influence in school curricula under PM SHRI and the NEP.

DYNASTY DUEL

BJP, JMM eye son-rise in J'khand

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

GHATSILA BYPOLL

- 13 candidates, including one woman, are in the fray
- Women voters outnumber men in the seat by around 6,100
- 2.56 lakh voters to exercise their franchise on November 11

The outcome will not threaten the Jharkhand government, but the JMM and the BJP are locked in an intense battle for political supremacy in Ghatsila, where late minister Ramdas Soren's son and former chief minister Champai Soren's son are banking on their fathers' legacies in the bypoll on November 11.

In the bypoll necessitated by Ramdas's death, the JMM has fielded his son Babulal, while the BJP has fielded Champai's son Somesh, who lost the last election.

Adding spice to the battle is the presence of Ramdas Murmu of the Jairam Mahto-led Jharkhand Loktantrik Krantikari Morcha (JLKM), who garnered just 8,092 votes last time.

Somesh, a 39-year-old mechanical engineer, believes his father's legacy and contributions to the constituency would help him cruise through, while Babulal is banking on the goodwill for Kolhan Tiger, as his father is known. Murmu, who is a resident of Ghatsila, accuses his two rivals of being outsiders.

Babulal has made it clear that he entered the battlefield to fulfil his father's "unfinished dreams", and has promised to transform the constituency into an education hub, besides opening mines to generate employment and stop migration.

Somesh is highlighting corruption and lack of development under the JMM government.

For the JMM, it is also important to ensure that Champai, who was CM when Hemant Soren was jailed but later shifted to the BJP, does not get a hold in the constituency.

Altogether, 13 candidates are in the fray for the seat with 2.56 lakh voters. Incidentally, women voters outnumber men in the seat by around 6,100, and major candidates are trying to woo them.

The JMM is banking on the "Maiyan Samman Yojana" that gives eligible women Rs 1,000 a month, while the BJP finds fault with the rising incidents of crime against women, besides publicising the various Central government schemes aimed at women.

The bad blood in the I.N.D.I.A bloc following JMM falling foul over seat-sharing arrangements in Bihar has dented the sheen of the campaign in Ghatsila, but the Hemant-led party is convinced that it would not impact Somesh's prospects.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

SC order empowers transgender people

A Supreme Court judgement last week has exposed not only the injustice still being meted out to the transgender community but also the failure of the law to help them. The Supreme Court's NALSA judgement in 2014 declared the equality of the transgender community with others in every way. It recognised a "third gender", and the trans persons' fundamental rights, including the right to self-determination of gender identity. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act was enacted and rules were framed later to give effect to the judgement. But the court has found that the governments, both at the Centre and in the states, have not implemented the Act. It had directed the governments to recognise transgender persons as a "socially and educationally backward class" entitled to reservations, and recommended the formulation of social welfare schemes for them.

The court criticised the governments for "brutishly" reducing the Act and its rules to "dead letters" and adopting "a grossly apathetic attitude towards the transgender community." It constituted an advisory committee to evaluate the implementation of the Act and recommend a "viable equal opportunity policy." The Union and state governments have been directed to frame their policies within three months of the submission of the report by the committee. The court's observations and its orders were based on a petition by Jane Kaushik, a transgender woman, who allegedly faced discrimination and termination of employment at two private schools in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. The petition brought to light several issues faced by the transgender community, such as workplace discrimination, harassment, hostile work environments, and lack of institutional support, besides non-implementation of the law and lack of access to benefits prescribed by the law. The court noted that apart from Kerala and Odisha, which implemented some provisions, most states are guilty of inaction.

A committee will now look into how prejudice can be tackled and justice served

The committee that the court has formed will hopefully look into the reasons for failure and ensure that the law and the rules are implemented. It is not just government apathy that has caused the failure. The government's apathy is a reflection of social attitudes which are discriminatory and even hostile to the transgender community. Apart from the Supreme Court, other courts have also seen petitions from the community, seeking justice and equal treatment. The court has given detailed guidelines on how to address the various issues the community is facing in its interactions with governments and other establishments, including educational and medical institutions. Attitudes, procedures and policies must change, and the court's intervention was much needed.

Bring transparency to BMRCL ad tenders

What was meant to be a Rs 65 crore advertising tender by the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) has become contentious, with several bidders alleging that the process lacks transparency and may have been structured to favour a particular player. If these charges hold merit, they point to an urgent need for stronger oversight and greater accountability in awarding public contracts. After a seven-year gap, BMRCL invited bids to grant advertising rights on 8,755 metro pillars across the city. However, participants have raised several questions regarding the tender structure. The contract runs for 12 years, extendable by three, an unusually long period for an advertising concession. Moreover, all existing and future corridors have been bundled into a single package, a move that restricts competition and effectively excludes smaller or local firms from participating.

The technical evaluation process has also drawn criticism. Thirty marks are reportedly allotted for a presentation before BMRCL officials — a highly subjective parameter that bidders argue allows room for excessive discretion. In addition, prior experience in handling metro-pillar advertising, which could have served as a basic eligibility criterion, has instead been given additional weightage under the scoring system. The bidders claim this disproportionately benefits a specific company. If these apprehensions are true, the financial consequences could be substantial. Some estimates suggest that Namma Metro could lose as much as Rs 25 crore a year — nearly Rs 375 crore over 15 years — if competition is curtailed. Advertising revenue forms an important part of Metro's non-fare income, and any shortfall here directly impacts its ability to fund network expansion and service debt.

Bidders suspect the rules were tweaked to favour a particular company

These issues also raise broader questions about governance and institutional oversight. The BMRCL Board of Directors is composed entirely of government officers. As an unlisted joint venture of the state and Union governments, the corporation is exempt from appointing independent directors, resulting in a lack of external checks on critical decisions. It is worth asking whether the board examined this tender in detail, and whether the Audit Committee subjected it to adequate scrutiny. Although BMRCL has a chief vigilance officer, ambiguity persists over whether bodies such as the Lokayukta or Lokpal have jurisdiction over such joint ventures. This institutional gap highlights the broader need to establish clear accountability mechanisms for such entities. Given the seriousness of the allegations, BMRCL should commission an independent expert committee to review the tender, examine all complaints, and recommend corrective measures. If irregularities are confirmed, the tender must be reissued to ensure maximum revenue for BMRCL. Public assets deserve open, competitive, and fair processes, and not opaque procedures that raise suuspicon and erode trust.

INDIA'S DIPLOMACY ADRIFT

Lofty foreign policy, not so lofty reality

New Delhi's diplomacy has been hollowed out by realpolitik. The world does not need another power that says noble things and acts opportunistically

VISHAL R CHORADIYA

In recent years, India's foreign policy has been cast in grand terms: as the world's largest democracy, as the vanguard of the Global South, and as an advocate for peace and dialogue while resolutely opposing terrorism.

Yet it is increasingly difficult to discern what, if anything, India's diplomacy actually stands for beyond grand slogans and adroit manoeuvring. The risk is that these lofty claims have been hollowed out by opportunism and realpolitik, leaving India bereft of any moral or ideological coherence, and diminishing its standing among nations.

First, consider the claim that India is the world's largest democracy, a champion of human rights and the rule of law. That identity has deep roots.

Under Jawaharlal Nehru, in the early years of the Indian republic, India conducted free and fair elections under incredibly trying conditions, and carved out a distinct role for itself on the world stage. India's electoral credibility and Nehru's leadership of the Non-Aligned Movement earned it an honourable standing, despite modest economic and military resources.

However, in recent years, independent bodies such as the V-Dem Institute have categorised India as being in the "electoral autocracy" category, noting that it ranked 100 of 179 countries on the Liberal Democracy Index in 2025. Similarly, the Freedom House 2025 report gives India a "Partly Free" status, citing rising harassment of journalists, NGOs, and minority groups under the current government.

These metrics reveal a stark disconnect between India's claim and its practice. The self-image of India as a beacon of democracy has been compromised.

Second, India presents itself as a leader of the Global South; a nation that understands the legacy of colonial and imperial extraction and stands in solidarity with other post-colonial states. Again, historically under Nehru, India developed that identity credibly: engaging with newly independent nations, forging alliances with like-minded states, and projecting an independent foreign policy not beholden to the blocs of the Cold War era.

But now the claim rings hollow. India's recent positions on the struggles of formerly colonised and marginalised peoples — such as the Palestinian fight against Israeli occupation, the Iranian challenge to Western hegemony, or the Tibetan demand for cultural and political autonomy — reflect a pattern of selective solidarity.

When moral clarity requires little cost, India speaks. But when principle demands standing up to powerful states, it retreats into silence dressed up as "strategic autonomy". This is not the behaviour of a principled leader of the Global South, but that of a state guided by expedience rather than solidarity.

Third, India asserts that it advocates peace, dialogue and adherence to international law, and that it stands firmly against terrorism in all its forms. Indeed, the restrained response by the Manmohan Singh government to the 26/11 Mumbai attacks helped distance India from being characterised simply as a state locked in perpetual conflict with its neighbour. That episode boosted India's image as a responsible nuclear power committed to the rule of law and to peaceful diplomacy even in the face of grave provocation.

Today, however, that image appears increasingly compromised. India's tacit financial and diplomatic support to both Russia and Israel in their ongoing military campaigns stands in direct contradiction to its professed advocacy of peace.

By purchasing discounted Russian oil for months, and by maintaining and expanding arms trade with Israel despite allegations of genocide, India has pursued strategic gain largely accruing to crony capitalists, defended as serving national interest, while delivering negligible benefit to ordinary Indians, at the cost of ethical consistency.

These decisions, framed as pragmatic policy choices, have the effect of legitimising state violence and undermining India's credibility as a nation that claims to uphold international law, human rights, and dialogue over force.

The same incoherence marks India's recent outreach to the Taliban. The decision to host the group's foreign minister and to announce the upgrade of India's "technical mission" in Kabul to full embassy status—even as the Taliban remains internationally ostracised for its repression of women and its links to terror networks—represents a jarring reversal. When a government that vows to oppose terrorism engages publicly with a regime steeped in extremist violence, one wonders where India truly draws the line.

This episode is emblematic of a broader erosion. The pillars of India's foreign identity are fraying. India is courting every major power in pursuit of strategic autonomy, while seeking to incur minimal cost.

It wants the status of moral leadership without the burdens that such leadership entails; it wants to assume the mantle of Global South champion without the act of speaking truth to power. While opportunism may buy short-term advantages, in the longer term it erodes trust and influence.

This pattern of calculated pragmatism cloaked in righteous rhetoric raises a fundamental question: What does India actually stand for in the world today?

The answer emerging is: for strategic ambition, economic expediency, pole-positioning in a multipolar world—but not for moral clarity, ideological conviction, or consistent leadership.

If India continues to define its foreign policy in those terms, it will not only lose the high ground it once occupied, but also increasingly find itself isolated and regarded as transactional.

To raise its international standing again, India must ask itself: Can it live up to the claims it makes? Or will it continue to engage in diplomacy driven by optics rather than substance?

The world does not need another power that says noble things and acts opportunistically. It needs one that asserts principle, consistently and with the courage to bear its costs. If India is to regain the weight of its early-republic identity, it must seriously acknowledge the hollowing out of what it once stood for, and begin the hard work of living up to it.

(The writer is an assistant professor with the Department of Professional Studies, Christ University, Bengaluru)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Jimmy finds a home

He was so happy to be cuddled that he could not stop smiling

PRAGATI NAYAK

Another dog in our locality had pups and would bring them along on her walks in our backyard. We soon noticed that the littlest pup--the runt of the litter--was being picked on. The others would bite its tiny bum or pounce on it from behind. Even the mother often scolded it for lagging behind, sometimes nipping it sharply to discipline it. The poor creature tried to keep up but often ended up sitting alone, too tired to run.

Over time, it became clear that the runt had been abandoned. Its family had probably moved on to some other place, leaving the weakling to fend for itself. It did not trouble us and learned to scavenge for leftovers and seemed to find peace in its own company.

As it grew, so did its appetite, but it remained really thin. We began feeding it scraps of meat and rice at lunch, bread and milk in the mornings. In the evenings and nights, it would disappear again, roaming the streets. Then one day it returned with a limp. Seeing it move so slowly and painfully broke our hearts. It was impossible to take it to vet; nervous and skittish it would dart away at our approach.

Now it stayed out of sight, sleeping in the shade of trees or curled in leaf litter. I named it Jimmy to call it for food. And soon it responded to the calls: "Jimmy, Jimmy, Jimmy, *aaja, aaja, aaja*!" Our domestic help, Lily, who has a soft spot for all critters, took responsibility for making sure he ate properly and drank enough water.

Even though he tried not to trouble us, Jimmy's natural instinct caused problems. He would dig up the earth or flatten our precious plants in the night. It became clear that he needed a proper home. We had to find him a home. Once again, Lily stepped in and found a family in her neighbourhood who had lost their old dog and wanted another.

A young man and woman arrived on a bike to take him away. They brought a large gunny bag to carry him. Some instinct must have told Jimmy that these people were his new parents and he did not scuttle away as they came towards him. They put him in the bag and though he struggled at first, the young woman eased his head out and cradled him in her arms.

Jimmy seemed overjoyed. He appeared to be so happy to be cuddled that he could not stop smiling! He allowed himself to be carried off, his grin so wide, he could have eaten a banana sideways! Jimmy had found his home.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bihar election campaign is turning ugly

As Assembly elections draw near in Bihar, the tone and tenor of propaganda are reaching a new low. Both BJP and RJD camps appear to be engaged in a smear campaign competition. Their narratives are in poor taste and highly explosive in content, with no holds barred from either side. The RJD styles Tejashwi as 'Nayak', while the BJP calls him 'Khalnayak' and Lalu 'Gabbar'. The epithets used, especially by the BJP, are likely to stir up an emotional response and create an extremely difficult situation for law and order agencies. All parties should scrupulously follow the Election Commission of India's special instructions on the use of AI and synthetic content in political campaigning. The EC must take note of such questionable trends in propaganda and take immediate corrective action. If the parties continue to conduct their campaigns in this manner, it would be impossible to hold free and fair elections.
S V Venkatakrishnan, Bengaluru

Enforce rules

Apropos 'Smartphone cargo may have exploded in Kurnool bus fire' (Oct 26), it is unfortunate that private buses are used as goods transport vehicles, carrying heavy consignments. These buses are often seen loading goods on busy roads in the evening before departure, parking haphazardly and disrupting traffic movement. They operate under the nose of police stations, with apparent connivance. There is no check on whether banned goods are transported. Overloaded buses with passengers pose an even greater threat, causing losses to the transport industry and increasing the risk of accidents like the one reported. Although rules are in place, unless enforcement is improved, accidents and fatalities will continue to occur.
Manya Nagaraja, Bengaluru

Abolish death penalty

This refers to 'Robert Badinter and France's moral awakening' (Oct 24), Badinter's efforts to abolish capital punishment in France serve as a reminder that deciding on punishment, especially capital punishment, is against moral law. The recent discussion on seeking permission from the Supreme Court to decide on sentencing methods raises concerns about the law's morality. The law should provide justice through rehabilitation and the potential for change, not violence. Many countries have abolished capital punishment, recognising the value of human life. It is essential to consider abolishing capital punishment in India as well, given the risk of innocent people being convicted and the erosion of faith in the law.
Sunita Munda, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

They (Tejashwi Yadav) know that they will not come to power... One thing is certain, on November 14, we will form the government with a strong and big victory. This time, we will also break the record of 2010...

Chirag Paswan, Union Minister and LJP-Ramvilas chief

Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces people into thinking they can't lose.

Bill Gates

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Laws on paper, deaths on road

The Kurnool and Jaisalmer bus fires reveal not one but a chain of institutional lapses

CHITRA SARUPARIA

On October 24, a Hyderabad–Bengaluru sleeper bus caught fire near Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, killing nearly 20 passengers trapped inside. The vehicle, operated by a private company, had all its paperwork in order — fitness certificate, tourist permit, and pollution clearance. However, it had been illegally converted from a seater into a sleeper coach, lined with flammable interiors, and fitted with blocked emergency exits. It had also accumulated 16 unpaid traffic challans.

Barely 10 days earlier, a similar tragedy unfolded in Rajasthan. A Jaisalmer–Jodhpur bus caught fire after a short circuit in its illegally installed air-conditioning system, killing 21 people. That vehicle, too, had a fitness certificate and a clean inspection record.

Two states, two accidents, one pattern: when policy is reduced to paperwork, lives become expendable.

Both the Kurnool and Jaisalmer fires reveal not one lapse but a chain of institutional failures. Fitness certification, meant to ensure mechanical soundness, has become a tick-box exercise. Inspections are rushed, often conducted without equipment or accountability. Vehicles pass the "fitness test" even when basic safety devices like fire extinguishers, hammers, and exits are missing.

This failure of enforcement is compounded by regulatory fragmentation. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways frames laws; the National Highways Authority of India builds roads; state transport departments issue vehicle licences; and local bodies maintain infrastructure. With so many actors and no single command, accountability dissolves the moment disaster strikes.

The Sundar Committee on Road Safety and Traffic Management (2007) had predicted this very outcome. It urged the creation of a National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board to separate policymaking, regulation, and investigation. Nearly two decades later, the proposal remains unimplemented.

Enforcement failures go deeper still. The Kurnool bus, despite repeated violations, continued to operate because there is no integrated database linking road offences, fitness certificates, and permits. Buses with a history of violations continue to run without scrutiny in the absence of a unified digital monitoring system.

Finally, the country's engineering standards are ignored with impunity. Illegal modifications, such as extra berths and makeshift air-conditioning, are rarely audited. The pattern is unmistakable: certification without inspection, regulation without coordination, and governance without deterrence.

According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, 4.8 lakh accidents in 2023 caused 1.72 lakh deaths—an average of 474 deaths every day. Yet road safety enters public discourse only after a disaster.

Every crash is both a human tragedy and an economic wound. The World Bank estimates that accidents cost India about 3%–5% of GDP each year, more than the national health budget. Most victims are 18-45 years old, the very segment that sustains India's productivity.

Transport departments are chronically understaffed and often compromised. The same authorities that issue licences also investigate accidents, creating a built-in conflict of interest. Even when negligence is evident, action seldom moves beyond temporary suspensions or cash compensation. Without criminal or professional consequences, deterrence disappears.

Reaction to prevention

The path forward lies not in drafting new laws but in enforcing existing ones with institutional independence: Every intercity and sleeper bus must be inspected by accredited third-party agencies and linked to a central digital registry; states should establish multidisciplinary units—engineers, forensic specialists, economists—to identify systemic faults and publish public reports; central safety grants should depend on verifiable improvements in fatality rates and emergency-response times; mandatory fire-suppression systems, non-flammable interiors, and certified modifications must be enforced through random inspections; all buses should have GPS-linked distress alerts, functional exits, and fire kits, and ambulances must be tracked to ensure response within the "golden hour".

These reforms demand coordination, data transparency, and political will, but not new bureaucracies.

India now needs a National Road Safety Authority — an independent statutory body with powers to set, monitor, and enforce safety standards across states. Countries like Sweden and Japan reduced fatalities only after empowering such agencies to integrate engineering, enforcement, and education.

Road safety must evolve into a culture of awareness and accountability across schools, businesses, and urban planning. Innovative technology can predict danger, but only decisive governance can prevent it.

India's highway expansion has outpaced its safety governance. The right to safe travel is an inherent part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. Fitness certificates and permits mean nothing if enforcement is hollow. The true measure of progress lies not in how many kilometres we build, but in how many lives we protect. When policy delivers, lives will no longer pay the price.

(The writer is the Director of the Centre of Economics, Law and Public Policy at National Law University, Jodhpur)

Judicial reforms: The system isn't the hurdle, the neglect is

NAYAKARA VEERESHA

On September 19, 2025, while explaining the role of the legal fraternity in achieving the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, Sanjay Sanyal, member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PM-EAC), remarked: "The judicial system and the legal ecosystem—but the judicial system in particular—is now, in my view, the single biggest hurdle to becoming Viksit Bharat and growing rapidly".

His observations came at the Nyaya Nirman Conference, organised by the General Counsels Association of India in New Delhi. He elaborated further that the "inability to enforce contracts in time or deliver the justice is now such a major constraint".

Sanyal called for a major overhaul of the entire legal ecosystem, observing that its functioning suffers from a "99 and 1" problem – meaning that 99% of rules, regulations and policies are framed for the 1% of cases involving misuse or disputes in a cyclical manner.

He also urged the discontinuation of certain practices: (i) the hierarchical caste-system-like structure within the profession, such as Senior and Junior Advocates and Advocates-on-Record; (ii) the existing system of judicial appointment in both higher and lower judiciary; (iii) the use of 'My Lord' and the word 'prayer' in petitions; (iv) the requirement of a law degree to argue in the courts in the age of artificial intelligence; (v) Vacation of judiciary; and (vi) a self-congratulatory tone withinthe system. He cited section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, as an example-- ponting to its 98-99% failure rate in terms of pre-litigation mediation in Mumbai, the country's financial capital.

The need for judicial reforms is indeed urgent. As Maja Daruwala, chief editor of the *India Justice Report*, 2025, highlighted: "Reform is not optional. It is urgent. A well-resourced, responsive justice system is a constitutional imperative that must be experienced as an everyday reality available to every citizen."

While the PM-EAC member listed out importnat aspects of judicial reforms—such as ending hierarchical designations and the use of deferential titles like 'mylord'—his remarks on the vacation of the judiciary are particularly significant. However, what is often overlooked is that the task of judges and lawyers is to dispense justice through careful and judicious application of mind and reasoned decision-making. Reading hundreds or thousands of pages, framing legal questions, collating evidence and writing judgements are all time-consuming processes. In spite of these, the Law Commission of India, in its 230th Report on *Reforms in the Judiciary - Some Suggestions* (2009), recommended that the vacations in the higher judiciary be curtailed by at least 10-15 days and that court working hours be extended by at least half an hour.

In India, the judge-population ration stands at 21.03 per million—significantly lower than that of the United States (150), European nations (average 220), and China (300). As of 2020, this ratio of 21:1 million remains largely unchanged. Excluding the Supreme Court, there are 293 vacancies in the high courts against a sanctioned strength of 1,122, and 4,819 vacancies (25,741 sanctioned posts) in district courts as of October 1, 2025.

The Law Commission of India's 1987 report, *Manpower Planning in Judiciary: A Blueprint* had recommended increasing the number of judges to at least 50 per million. The Law Commission's 245th report, *Arrears and Backlog: Creating Additional Judicial (Wo)manpower* (2014), noted that the judge-population ratio is not a scientific criterion for determining the adequacy of the strength of judges in the country. Instead, it proposed models such as the ideal caseload method (total pending cases per judge), the time-based method (average case disposal time), and the rate of disposal method, suggesting a weighted approach tailored to local social and legal contexts.

The Union government must implement these recommendations from the Law Commission without further delay. While the areas of judicial reforms mentioned by the PM-EAC member definitely deserve serious attention, branding the judiciary as the biggest hurdle to achieving rapid growth is misplaced. It highlights the symptoms rather than the causes.

Infrastructure development and increasing the sanctioned strength of the judges in all courts -- particularlt in the district and high courts -- are the first essential steps towards building an ecosystem conducive to meaningful reform. Structural reforms must also address the decline in the institutional efficiency of the legislature (seen in the diminishing role of parliamentary committees, frequent adjournments, and bills passed without debate and discussion) and the executive (marked by administrative ineffectiveness and bureaucratic inertia).

In a democracy, the legislature, executive and judiciary share equal responsibility for ensuring the welfare of the people.

(The writer is an assistant professor at the Symbiosis Law School – Symbiosis International [Deemed University], Pune)

The robbery at the Louvre left behind more than broken glass. It battered the pride of a nation that is increasingly glum about itself and its direction

ROGER COHEN

Jewellery of Queen Marie-Amelie and Queen Hortense displayed at Apollon's Gallery at the Louvre museum in Paris. French authorities have detained two men in connection with the recent theft of precious jewellery from the Louvre. FILE PHOTO/AFP

A break-in that shook France

With the glorious Louvre museum plundered by thieves in an eight-minute heist, a former president consigned this month to a prison cell, and a recent government that lasted just 836 minutes, an end-of-era air of rot has taken hold of President Emmanuel Macron's France.

On the banks of the Seine, opposite the Académie Française, that august guardian of French civilisation, tourists and passers-by rubberneck and gawk at the small balcony from which two burglars cut their way into the Louvre's gilded Galerie d'Apollon on October 19 and made off with the jewels of two French queens and two empresses.

As thefts go, it was brazen to the point of mockery. A truck-mounted ladder of the kind widely used in Paris to move furniture, a few glass-breaking machine tools and a heavy dose of audacity were all that was needed to make off in broad daylight with eight crown jewels valued at over $100 million, and leave that increasingly fragile thing, French pride, shaken.

The Louvre, a royal palace that became a labyrinthine museum spread over a half-mile of the right bank of the Seine, is much more than a repository of art. It is the embodiment of the tumultuous history of France, the physical expression of a nation's restless quest for greatness, and a place widely regarded as near sacred, visited by almost 9 million people last year.

To violate it, and with such contemptuous ease, has been experienced as a form of ridicule at a time when five governments have succeeded one another in the space of two years.

"The burglary has felt like a profound violence, an expression of national disarray and of the degradation of the state," Aurélie Filippetti, a former culture minister, said in an interview. "The chronic neglect that produced this, despite many warnings, in the largest and most visited museum in the world, is just not serious."

Stewart Chau, a director of the Verian Group, which polls French sentiment, told the newspaper L'Opinion this past week that the most recent survey indicated that 53% of French people felt ashamed of the country, up from 38% in January, overtaking anger and despair as predominant emotions. Optimism, in general, is uncommon in France.

The fact that the Louvre was also the place chosen eight years ago by Macron to celebrate, with great pomp, his first electoral victory in the vast Napoléon Courtyard has added to a sense of shattered French hopes. The promise of that moment is now a distant memory and the president's popularity at its lowest ebb ever.

For a couple of days after the theft, the broken window pane on the Louvre's facade was covered with what looked like a piece of wood, suggestive of a do-it-yourself domestic repair job to keep out a draft. The sole exterior camera on that wing of the Louvre was pointing the wrong way—west, not east—as the embattled museum director, Laurence des Cars, revealed to angry senators at a hearing on Wednesday.

As for Rachida Dati, the conservative culture minister and a close friend of Nicolas Sarkozy, the now-imprisoned former president convicted in a campaign financing scandal, she has resorted to a whirlwind of flailing defiance.

Her story, and she's sticking to it, has been that "there was no failure of security mechanisms," as she put it to the National Assembly. She has insisted on this despite a leaked draft report from the country's supreme audit institution that presented a devastating portrait of underinvestment, inadequate security cameras, and delays in essential modernisation of the Louvre.

Des Cars, the museum director, duly offered her resignation but, in a further circling of the wagons, Dati and Macron rejected it. "There is a dereliction of the State," Sylvain Tesson, a prominent author, told France Inter radio.

On social media, some have portrayed the president since the burglary wearing the gold, diamond and emerald crown of the Empress Eugénie, which was dropped by the thieves in their hasty escape.

Perhaps in retrospect, the choice of the Louvre to start his presidency, in a courtyard bearing the name of an emperor, betrayed in Macron an air of grandiloquent loftiness and a near-regal, top-down approach to government that repelled many French people from the start, and many more over time.

Despite repeated pledges that he would become a humble listener, Macron has never shaken the "Jupiter" epithet, nor been able to contain his penchant for overlong speeches and elaborate strategic plans lacking essential groundwork.

Early in his presidency, Macron described his victory as a kind of "break-in," a shattering of the system that undid in a moment decades of political dominance by parties of the centre right and centre left. It was indeed a "form of historical brutality," as he put it then, that ushered a neophyte to power at the age of 39.

Now, another break-in has underscored his plight. It has been the cherry on the cake of his accumulated problems.

Eight years on, "Macronism" has birthed no credible alternative party of the centre, leaving the country deadlocked and largely paralysed between the ascendant extreme right of Marine Le Pen, the far left, and several weakened centrist parties bereft of any clear message.

Under pressure to quit, which he has vowed never to do, Macron is term limited, with 18 months left to run in his presidency.

He has been repeatedly mocked by President Donald Trump as a publicity-seeking hound — a flippant affront to Macron's commitment to the European Union and the rule of law. His popularity has plunged to 14%, according to a recent poll by Elabe, published in the business daily Les Echos.

Gazing up at the scene of the crime at the Louvre, Lauric Czeryba, a student of industrial design, shook his head. "It's chaos," he said.

His girlfriend, Léane Lacroix, concurred. "Nobody can agree on anything," she said, "so we don't advance." They are thinking of moving to Denmark.

This year, Macron, in an announcement that was widely viewed as part of his quest for a legacy, announced an almost $600 million "Louvre New Renaissance" project. It will move the Mona Lisa to a new exhibition space with its own ticket, shift the main entrance to the museum's easternmost facade not far from where the thieves broke in, and devote about $93 million to improved security.

"It would be better to start with the plumbing and other basics," said Filippetti, the former culture minister. "You don't isolate a masterpiece like the Mona Lisa and put it to one side so that people can take selfies and leave after paying a premium."

She called the grand plan a "bling-bling commercial operation."

Of course, Macron presided last year over an extremely successful Paris Olympics. He steered the country through the Covid-19 crisis and has made France attractive to foreign investment. His insistence on turning Europe into a serious global power proved prescient.

But, with debt and the deficit spiralling, governments tumbling and pretenders to the presidency deserting him, a large majority of the French seem to have decided they have had enough.

If proof is needed that France is fickle, rebellious and can turn on its leaders, the Louvre provides it.

The nation created the museum after the 1789 revolution that sent the king and queen packing to the guillotine, only to raise Napoleon to the rank of Emperor 15 years later. It is the jewels of his new, post-revolutionary French royalty that have now gone missing.

The Louvre certainly lost out on the value of the crown jewels. They are irreplaceable as a symbol of French history.

Construction work is expected to start early next year on an 80 million euro security overhaul (about $93 million) of the Louvre that includes refurbished command centers, more surveillance cameras and an updated badge system. The overhaul is part of a broader renovation plan announced by President Emmanuel Macron this year.

The New York Times

Clean India's unfinished journey

AKSHAY ROUT

India has been soaking in festival fervour, leaving in its trail not only spiritual and cultural reinforcement but also considerable consumption, waste, and pollution of the earth, water, and air – depending on the nature of the celebrations. The Chhath Puja in the North has again drawn attention to the polluted state of the Yamuna and other rivers, just as the post-Diwali debate on the National Capital Region's air quality subsides.

In contrast, for two weeks culminating on October 2, the country was reminded of a different kind of service --to the land it inhabits and to itself – through the Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) campaign. The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), which set out to achieve a clean India beginning with freedom from open defecation, has relied on mass mobilisation as its core strategy. But the ninth edition of SHS stood out for its reach and scale – a strong statement of nationwide ownership of cleanliness. Over 187 million people volunteered to clean nearly 2.2 million corners of filth and public places. Last year, citizens helped revive around 800,000 heavily littered spots.

There is now an urgency to sustain this momentum. As SBM 2.0 enters its final year, the push towards garbage-free cities must accelerate. Key parameters such as solid waste management, remediation of legacy dumpsites, plastic eradication, and the establishment of large-scale waste processing plants need fast-tracking. Progress in both urban and rural areas has been steady, but garbage has not disappeared – except in patches. The menace of plastic persists despite the 2021 ban on single-use plastics.

Take Gurugram and parts of NCR, which have plunged into an image crisis because of visible waste. State and local bodies have intensified action recently, but effective mitigation remains elusive. The towering trash mountain at Bandhwari is a stark reminder of failure in municipal waste management. Such festering sites need special attention and technological and financial support. The symbolic launch of SHS from Bhalswa landfill in Delhi should serve as a war cry for sustained transformation -- not a token gesture. The focus on preventing re-accumulation must continue well beyond the campaign.

Government policy and action are in place, with unprecedented funding for sanitation since 2014. Of India's 5,000 cities, about 1,000 have achieved a reasonable grip on garbage management, with a few showing outstanding results. Out of 1.6 lakh tonnes of solid waste generated daily, 81% is officially processed. Over half of the country's massive dumpsites are now under remediation.

Places of pilgrimage – traditionally sanitation challenges – have now become new beacons. At the last Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, the world's largest human gathering, technology and meticulous planning ensured remarkable cleanliness. The Amarnath Yatra this year, with 400,000 devotees trekking to the holy cave, achieved a zero-landfill, zero-waste benchmark through scientific waste management and plastic-free practices. The Meenakshi temple in Madurai was among the first under SBM to make its premises visibly cleaner by recycling floral and other offerings. During the festive season, SHS seeks to extend this spirit through clean and green community action.

The Swachh Shehar Jodi under SBM Urban is another innovative step. The country's 72 cleanest cities, identified under Swachh Survekshan, will mentor 200 low-performing cities in sanitation and waste management -- a partnership whose results will be closely watched.

Yet, regardless of policy and infrastructure, cleanliness ultimately depends on civic participation. The construction of 120 million household toilets means little unless they are used. Waste processing facilities cannot deliver results unless citizens segregate their waste at source into organic and inorganic components. Waste bins appear in larger numbers in public places as part of Swachh Bharat mobilisation, but old habits of careless disposal are creeping back. Increasingly, cities are considering taxing residents for unsegregated waste or imposing fines for public littering. Behavioural compliance may soon become the new order.

Everyday consciousness about the environment and ownership of public spaces remains critical. In its initial years, Swachh Bharat Mission – India's best-known public campaign – burnt brightly as a movement of behaviour change. That flame needs reigniting. Its first vindication came within five years of launch, when states declared themselves Open-Defecation Free (ODF) in 2019. The next milestone must be a nationwide lineup of clean, healthy villages and towns -- cared for with the same attention families give their homes during festival season.

(The writer is former Director General of the Swachh Bharat Mission)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 1975

19 die in stampede for free cloth tokens in Madurai

Madurai, October, 26
Nineteen people were killed in a stampede around 10 a.m. today in the Sourashtra High School campus here where tokens for free clothes for Deepavali were being issued. Those killed were 17 women, a 13-year-old boy and a two-and-half-year-old girl. Ten persons received injuries in the melee and were shifted to hospital, one of them was in a serious condition. Free distribution of saris and dhotis to members of the Sourashtra community was being done by a local charitable trust for the last five years.

25 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 2000

Sardinha quits, Parrikar takes over as Goa CM

Panaji, Oct 26
Goa's first ever BJP government, headed by Mr Manohar Parrikar, assumed office here today with a 14-member ministry, with one Cabinet berth going to the BJP's new alliance partner, the MGP. Mr Ravi Naik, who was the Congress Legislature Party leader till last week, becomes the deputy chief minister in the new arrangement. Soon after being sworn in at Raj Bhavan here, the new CM sought to allay apprehensions in certain quarters. "No one need fear that things will be different under a BJP government. There is no threat to the communal harmony," he said.

OASIS | ACHARYA PRASHANT

Why self-help doesn't work

Every bookstore one goes to today will have at least one aisle full of books that say essentially the same thing: "You can fix yourself." The self-help industry is full of quick-fix mantras and five-step success models. They all share one simple belief: that the "self" is broken and can be fixed with the right technique.

But before we try to "help" the self, shouldn't we first question, "What is this self that we're trying to help?"

Most self-help starts with a wrong idea: that the "I" we live with is real, permanent, and worth defending. This so-called self is really just a collection of fears, desires, and conditioning that is always worried about its own survival. It has to hold on to its stories to survive: "I'm not enough," "I need to get better," "I need to become something." So it looks for aid, not to get rid of these false beliefs, but to make them easier to deal with.

That's why self-help feels good but is actually empty. It shows you how to reach your goals faster and how to win the race that is making you tired. It cleans the cage, but it doesn't unlock the door. The main point of its flowery language is simple: You're unhappy because your needs aren't being met, so meet them.

But getting what you want isn't the same as fulfilling yourself. You can acquire everything you desire a hundred times and still experience the same restless feeling within. The ego likes to call its pleasures "growth" and its distractions "healing." That's how the trick keeps going on.

The self-help sector essentially promises more work, more fixing, and more chasing. It advises you how to attract, how to manifest, and how to make the most of what you have. But it doesn't expect you to see and understand what the self is truly like: how it moves, reacts, fears, and asks for everything.

That simple act of honest observation is the start of real change.

The reality is difficult but freeing: you don't have to 'improve' yourself, you only need to understand yourself. You don't need to put anything extra on; you need rather to identify the pre-existing bondages. What remains then is not a "better" version of yourself, but a dissolution of the self.

Real self-help isn't about getting better; it's about understanding. It's not about picking up new habits; it's about getting rid of false identities. It doesn't start with ambition; it starts with honesty.

So, the next time you pick up a self-help book, ask yourself if you really want to heal or just hide. What's needed is not another method, but the courage to see who it is that needs help at all.

Acharya Prashant is a philosopher and teacher of global wisdom literature, founder of the PrashantAdvait Foundation, and bestselling author who brings timeless insight to urgent modern questions.

EC to unveil nationwide voter roll review today

First phase likely to cover poll-bound states

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, DHNS

The Election Commission is all set to announce the schedule for a nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls on Monday, and it is likely to be in phases, with the first one targeting election-bound states and a few more.

The poll body has said a press conference has been scheduled for 4.15 pm on Monday. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar will address the press conference along with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

Indications are that the EC will conduct the first phase of SIR in five poll-bound states and union territories—Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Arunachal Pradesh, and West Bengal—and a few more states and Union Territories where preparatory work is over. Around 10-15 states will be covered.

Bihar, where Assembly elections will be held on November 6 and 11, has already undergone the exercise.

The EC has held two conferences with state Chief Electoral Officers in the past two months, with the last being on October 22-23 to review the preparedness for conducting the exercise.

Most states had the last SIR of the voter list between 2002 and 2004, and it will serve as the cut-off date, like the way the 2003 electoral roll was used by the EC for intensive revision.

'Welcome development'

Maharashtra Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis welcomed the SIR initiative, saying he has been advocating for it for over a decade.

"It is a welcome development. In 2012, I had myself moved the Bombay High Court seeking a review, as the exercise had not been conducted for nearly 25 years," Fadnavis told reporters in Nagpur.

Commenting on the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and other parties' plan to hold a morcha in Mumbai on November 1, Fadnavis said they were "directionless." "It is the Maha Yuti that will win the upcoming local body elections," he asserted.

Matua unease dims BJP's hope to corner TMC with Bengal SIR

Infighting over community outreach plagues party state unit

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The BJP is banking on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to take on the ruling Trinamool Congress in next year's West Bengal Assembly elections but is grappling with internal rifts and growing unease among a key community it is trying to woo.

The infighting within the Bengal BJP came out in the open once again when a camp it organised at Kalyani in Nadia to reassure the Hindus who crossed over from Bangladesh was vandalised, allegedly by a faction within the party's local unit.

A BJP legislator even warned the party of the wrath of the Matuas — a lower-caste Hindu community with roots in Bangladesh, many of whom are now living in West Bengal and other states in eastern India — if their citizenship was questioned during the SIR.

The BJP, which has been competing with the TMC to expand its support base within the community, is organising camps to allay their concerns.

ELECTORAL TROUBLE

- The Matua community emerged from a 19th-century reformist movement led by Harichand Thakur and comprises lower-caste Hindus once treated as untouchables.
- Large numbers migrated from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) to West Bengal after Partition (1947) and again after 1971, settling mainly in Nadia and North 24 Parganas districts.
- Matuas form about 17% of West Bengal's population and can influence results in 40–45 Assembly constituencies.
- Many are Hindu refugees from Bangladesh. The SIR of electoral rolls has raised fears about their citizenship status, though the BJP cites the CAA as protection.

With the Election Commission (EC) likely to start the SIR in West Bengal soon, the BJP top brass has asked the party's local leaders to organise at least 700 camps—particularly in the state's border districts—to reassure the Hindu refugees from Bangladesh that they could apply for Indian citizenship through the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019.

BJP heavyweight Suvendu Adhikari said the SIR would lead to the disenfranchisement of over 2.4 crore Muslims who illegally crossed over from Bangladesh.

The BJP has been accusing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's government of helping illegal immigrants settle in West Bengal and turning into the TMC's vote bank.

"The SIR will strike the Bangladeshi Muslims off the electoral rolls. Once it is done, the TMC will be easily ousted in the next Assembly elections," said Adhikari, adding: "No Hindu will lose the right to vote, nor will any Indian Muslim."

However, BJP legislator Asim Sarkar — known to be a leader of the Matuas — said they would not forgive the saffron party if their citizenship status came under question due to the SIR.

Union minister and BJP MP Shantanu Thakur said no Hindu refugee who had come to India from Bangladesh would be disenfranchised. Shantanu's aunt Mamata Bala Thakur, a TMC MP, however, said the SIR would unfairly and unnecessarily trouble the Matuas.

Shantanu and Mamata Bala — both members of the first family of the Matuas — have been fighting for the community's leadership.

Matuas now account for nearly 17% of West Bengal's population and can influence the poll results in 40-45 of the state's 294 Assembly seats.

ARMS DOWN

Maoist cadres surrender with weapons before the authorities in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district on Sunday. As many as 21, including 13 women ultras, laid down arms under 'Poona Margem: Rehabilitation through Reintegration' initiative. PTI

'Op Sindoor, Maoism removal added colour to festivals'

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Narendra Modi

Extending greetings on the occasion of Chhath Puja, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said festivals had become more vibrant this year due to the success of Operation Sindoor and steps taken to eradicate the Maoist menace.

In the 127th edition of his monthly radio address Mann Ki Baat, he said Chhath Puja was a confluence of devotion, affection, and tradition, and reflected India's social unity.

Recalling his letter to citizens for the festival season, the PM said the country's achievements had made the festive season more vibrant.

"Operation Sindoor has filled every Indian with pride. This time around, lamps of joy were lit even in those areas where the darkness of Maoist terror once prevailed," he said, adding: "People want the complete eradication of the Maoist terror that jeopardised the future of their children."

Modi also lauded the courage of Komaram Bheem, who fought against the atrocities of the Nizam of Hyderabad and killed an officer dispatched by him to seize the crops of farmers in the region.

"During that era, when even uttering a word against the Nizam was a crime, that young man openly challenged an officer of the Nizam named Siddiqui. The Nizam sent Siddiqui to confiscate farmers' crops. But in this struggle against oppression, that young man killed Siddiqui," he said.

Modi said Bheem also successfully managed to evade arrest and escaped the Nizam's forces to reach Assam.

The PM said the nation would celebrate November 15 — tribal independence activist Birsa Munda's birth anniversary—as the Janajateeya Gaurav Diwas.

"Just like Birsa Munda and Komaram Bheem, there have been many other great luminaries in our tribal communities. I urge you to definitely read about them," he said.

The prime minister said the national song Vande Mataram depicted a vibrant and magnificent image of India, and urged citizens to make its year memorable by carrying forward its values for future generations.

He said many programmes related to Vande Mataram would be organised throughout the country to commemorate 150 years of the national song, penned by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

NC rift: MPs question Omar's leadership

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah with others during Autumn session of the Assembly in Srinagar. PTI

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is facing an unprecedented rebellion within his own party, with two National Conference (NC) MPs openly questioning his leadership and the functioning of his government.

The rare show of dissent, coming from two parliamentarians of his own party—Agha Ruhullah and Mian Altaf Ahmad—has exposed widening cracks within the NC and placed Omar in one of his toughest political moments yet.

Firebrand MP Agha Ruhullah, known for his outspoken views, has accused the party leadership of hiding crucial information about cross-voting in the recent Rajya Sabha elections, calling it a "betrayal of public trust."

"From his (Omar's) statement, it is clear that he knows who did the cross-voting but is choosing not to reveal the names. This is not someone's private shop where such matters can be hidden. This is public property—the trust of the people is at stake," Ruhullah said.

The Srinagar MP, who has often voiced independent opinions, had already announced he would not campaign for the party in the upcoming Budgam Assembly bypolls. He said his decision was driven by his commitment to principles and disillusionment over the government's failure to deliver on its promises.

Adding to Omar's discomfort, senior NC leader and influential Gujjar leader Mian Altaf has also broken ranks, accusing the government of failing to address the unemployment issue. "Lakhs of educated youth with multiple degrees are feeling helpless. Despite promises made during elections, no significant recruitment process has been started," Altaf said.

In a rare public rebuke, he also disapproved of the CM's recent remarks on the installation of smart electricity meters, saying Omar "should speak thoughtfully and with understanding."

The twin attacks come at a politically vulnerable time for Omar, whose government is already battling public criticism for a lack of jobs and rising prices. The Centre's reluctance to restore J&K's statehood has further curtailed his administrative authority, leaving him open to accusations of ineffectiveness.

Political analysts see the statements from Ruhullah and Altaf as a serious warning sign.

Direct flights between Kolkata & China's Guangzhou resume

KOLKATA, PTI

After a hiatus of over four years, direct commercial air services between Kolkata and mainland China's Guangzhou city resumed on Sunday with the first flight taking off from the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport here at 10 pm, an official said.

The A320 neo aircraft of private carrier IndiGo flew off from the airport with 176 passengers, the official said.

Direct flights were operational between the two countries till early 2020 before being suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic. The services remained suspended in view of the eastern Ladakh border row.

Private carrier IndiGo resumed direct commercial passenger flight services to China, connecting Kolkata to Guangzhou with daily non-stop flights, following recent diplomatic initiatives.

SYMBOLIC STEP

- India and China resumed direct flights on Sunday after a five-year suspension
- The Centre said the resumption of flights will boost "people-to-people contact" and aid the "gradual normalisation of bilateral exchanges".
- Warming relations with Beijing come as India's ties with key trade partner US falter following 50% tariff.

The occasion was marked by a brief ceremony at the airport, where the lighting of the ceremonial lamp was done by one of the passengers, symbolising the spirit of renewed friendship and cooperation between India and China, an official said.

NSCBI Airport Director P R Beuria, along with officials from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and IndiGo Airlines, were present at the event.

Beuria said that the revival of this direct route would not only strengthen business and tourism ties but also provide greater convenience to passengers traveling between the two major cities.

The resumption of the daily direct connection between Kolkata and Guangzhou will further reinforce the West Bengal capital's position as a key international aviation hub in eastern India, officials said.

MP minister asks cricketers to inform before going out

INDORE, PTI: Amid an outrage over the alleged molestation of two Australian women cricketers in Indore, Madhya Pradesh minister Kailash Vijayvargiya on Sunday said cricket players must keep the local authorities informed while stepping out, as they are very popular in India.

Kailash Vijayvargiya

The two women players, who are taking part in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, were stalked, and one of them was molested by a motorcycle-borne man in the city on Thursday morning.

According to police, the two cricketers had stepped out of their hotel and were walking towards a cafe when a man on a motorcycle started following them.

He allegedly touched one of them inappropriately and fled.

"Players must keep in mind that when they leave their place, their security and local administration should be informed because there is a huge craze for cricketers (in India)," Vijayvargiya said.

DH DECIPHERS

Sabarimala gold heist: How temple renovation turned into a scam

Sabarimala Ayyappa temple, a major pilgrimage centre in Kerala, is caught in a row over an alleged gold heist. A Bengaluru-based Malayali, his associates, and a few officials of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) that manages the temple, are accused of looting the precious metal from the gold coverings of the temple, done with Rs 18 crore funding support from industrialist Vijay Mallya in 1998-99. **Arjun Raghunath** *digs deep into the controversy.*

What was siphoned off from Sabarimala?
Gold coatings of the two 'Dwarapalaka idols' (guardian deities) on either side of the door of the sanctum sanctorum and door frames were found missing. Over 30 kg of 24-carat gold was used for coating the door sculptures carved on copper plates. Of that, around two kg were used for plating the two Dwarapalaka idols as well as the door frames.

How did the alleged heist happen?
In 2019, when the TDB decided to carry out maintenance work. Bengaluru-based Unnikrishnan Potti, who earlier worked as an assistant to the priest at Sabarimala, offered to sponsor it. While handing over the plating to the sponsor, it was mentioned as copper in the records. Though permission of the Kerala High Court Devaswom bench is required for all major works, those norms were flouted. The plating was given to Chennai-based Smart Creations. Though the plating's weight was less by 4.5 kg when Potti returned it, no inquiry was conducted.

What is the suspicion?
It is suspected that gold coatings were looted by Potti with the connivance of the TDB authorities. Potti displayed the plating at various places in south India and collected donations for the work that he offered to carry out. The plating was taken to Chennai for maintenance and the suspicion is that the motive behind it could be the removal of some of the yellow metal.

What are the political consequences?
The irregularities happened during the tenure of the two successive governments led by Pinarayi Vijayan. The board president and members being political nominees, the Left party is on the backfoot. The row came up close on the heels of the Global Ayyappa Sangamam, which political analysts claimed had a hidden agenda of bringing Hindu outfits into Pinarayi's confidence since local body and assembly polls are approaching. Congress and the BJP are now trying to cash in on the issue.

What steps have been taken by the SIT so far?
The SIT has arrested Potti and Murari Babu, a former senior TDB official. Three others from Bengaluru, identified as Aananthasubramanyam, Ramesh and Kalpesh are also under the radar. As many as 18 persons, mostly TDB employees, have been arraigned in the two cases registered so far.

How did the irregularities come to light?
On Sept 8, 2025, a special commissioner appointed by the Kerala High Court for overseeing the activities at Sabarimala reported that the gold plating of the 'Dwarapalaka' idols were removed and taken to Chennai without permission a day before. The TDB later admits the lapse. It was during these proceedings, the court found the discrepancy in the plating's weight after it was given to Potti in 2019. The HC asked the TDB vigilance wing to probe, which exposed the malpractice involving board officials. Subsequently, a High Court Division Bench comprising Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan V and Justice K V Jayakumar constituted a special investigation team.

A home and a brother: Kerala's anti-poverty drive helps trace kin

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Kerala's extreme poverty eradication drive not only helped a visually challenged couple in Idukki district escape destitution, but also led to the tracing of a long-lost family member missing for 27 years.

Shy and Sunitha, a blind couple from Kumaramangalam in Idukki, were among the 64,006 families identified as living in extreme poverty. They earned a living by street-singing and struggled to support their college-going daughter's education. The panchayat initiated efforts in 2023 to secure housing for them under the state government's LIFE Mission scheme.

Shy was entitled to four cents of ancestral property, provided all his siblings gave their consent. However, one of his brothers had been missing for 27 years, and registration authorities insisted on formal documentation to confirm his absence or presumed death. Without proof, his consent remained legally necessary.

"We were completely in the dark about his whereabouts," recalls panchayat president Gracy Thomas. "But a relative took the initiative to trace him, eventually locating a close friend through social media. That connection helped us re-establish contact."

Shy's brother was found living in Tamil Nadu. He agreed to travel back and provide the required consent, though he requested confidentiality for personal reasons. The house construction is now in its final stages.

Kerala is set to be declared an extreme poverty-free state by November 1, with nearly all of the 64,006 identified families struggling for food, shelter, and medical aid now covered under government support schemes. Most lacked valid documents and were excluded from welfare benefits.

Isro to launch communication satellite on Nov 2

BENGALURU, PTI: The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) on Sunday said its LVM3 launch vehicle is scheduled to lift off with the CMS-03 communication satellite on November 2, from Sriharikota's Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

According to the space agency, CMS-03 is a multi-band communication satellite designed to provide services across a wide oceanic region, including the Indian landmass.

Weighing about 4,400 kg, it will be the heaviest communication satellite to be launched to a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) from Indian soil.

Heatwaves wilt Kashmir's hopes of a bumper saffron harvest

This year's bloom estimated at only 15-20% of normal levels; many farmers disappointed

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Farmers say their fields look lush but have yielded few flowers. PTI FILE

The dream of a bumper harvest has withered again in Kashmir's famed saffron belt, as farmers report a sharp drop in flowering — a fallout of consecutive heatwaves that have weakened the region's delicate crop and once-fertile soil.

Despite timely rain and favourable early sowing conditions, the bloom this year is estimated at only 15-20% of normal levels, according to Kashmir Saffron Growers Association president Abdul Majeed Wani.

"Last year's intense heat damaged the corms underground, and the plants could not recover even after this year's good rainfall," explained Wani. "The bloom is much lower than what we had hoped for. Many farmers are disappointed because they were expecting a rebound after two difficult years."

Saffron—*kong* in Kashmiri, *zaffran* in Urdu, and *kesar* in Hindi—comes from the crimson stigma of the flower and is used in cooking, skincare, perfumery, textile dyes, and medicine.

Farmers across Pampore, Khrew, and Lethpora—South Kashmir's traditional saffron-growing areas—say their fields look lush but have yielded few flowers. Javeed Kuchay, a grower from Pampore, said: "We irrigated properly and even used organic manure, but nature had other plans."

Another grower, Bilal Ahmad from Khrew, said the prolonged dry spells and extreme summer temperatures had altered the soil's natural rhythm.

"Saffron corms need moisture during the summer and cold nights in autumn. Last year's heat wave upset the entire cycle. We are seeing the effects now," he said.

Kashmir's saffron—known globally for its deep red stain and strong aroma—has been cultivated for centuries in the Pampore plateau, earning the region the title "Saffron Town."

But it has become increasingly vulnerable to erratic weather, shrinking acreage, and declining soil health in recent years.

Omar steps away from I.N.D.I.A bloc line to endorse NEP

SRINAGAR, DHNS: In a move that underscores growing divergence within the Opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has come out in support of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020—a stand that contrasts sharply with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's fierce opposition to the policy.

Speaking at the valedictory session of a two-day conclave on NEP at Srinagar's Amar Singh College, Omar described the Design Your Degree (DYD) programme as a "transformative reform" that allows students to shape their education based on career needs.

Omar said the shift towards combining theoretical knowledge with practical experience was helping bridge the gap between classrooms and workplaces.

His remarks come at a time when the NEP has become a major flashpoint between the ruling BJP and the opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc. Omar's endorsement to the policy has further highlighted differences in the opposition alliance.

While Omar has appreciated the reform's academic flexibility, Rahul Gandhi has positioned himself as its most vocal national critic. He has repeatedly argued that the NEP seeks to centralise control over education.

Law student's stomach cut open, fingers chopped after tiff in UP

KANPUR, PTI

A law student's stomach was split open and two fingers were chopped off after an argument with a medical shop owner turned violent here, police said on Sunday.

Three accused, including the shop owner, have been arrested for the attack that took place in the Rawatpur area around 9 pm on Saturday. A search is underway for a fourth accused, they said.

Abhijeet Singh Chandel (22), a first-year LLB student and a resident of Keshavpuram, had gone to the pharmacy near his home. He had an argument with the shop owner, Amar Singh Chauhan, over the price of a medicine, according to police.

Chauhan, his brother Vijay Singh, and their aides allegedly attacked Chandel with a chopper, striking his head and stomach, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Kalyanpur) Ranjeet Kumar said.

Soaked in blood, Chandel collapsed on the road while the attackers fled.

Chandel's family tied his intestines with a cloth before rushing him to a hospital. The family took him to four hospitals, but all of them refused to admit him due to his critical condition, said an official.

The youth was admitted to Regency Hospital, where doctors performed a two-hour surgery. He received 14 stitches on the head.

The victim's mother, Neelam Singh Chandel, claimed that the accused were "well connected with police" and managed to get a false extortion case registered against her and her injured son the same night.

"Instead of arresting those behind the murderous attack, police booked my son, who is fighting for his life," she said.

Kumar said an extortion FIR was registered against Chandel based on Chauhan's complaint, but a fresh case was registered once the truth about the brutal assault emerged.

Nationwide hunt for Arunachal IAS officer after twin suicides, sexual abuse charges

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Police in Arunachal Pradesh have launched a nationwide search for a senior IAS officer, following two consecutive suicides, allegations of sexual exploitation and mounting public protests.

Talo Potom (53), who served as Deputy Commissioner of Itanagar earlier, is currently posted in New Delhi as Special Under Secretary in the Public Works Department (PWD).

Deputy Inspector General of Police (Itanagar Capital Range) Tumme Amo told *DH* on Sunday that a lookout notice was issued by the Nirjuli Police Station on Saturday after Potom was found to be untraceable.

"The accused is still evading arrest," Amo said.

The victim, a 19-year-old employed as a multi-tasking staffer in the PWD, died by alleged suicide on October 23. In a purported suicide note, he accused Talo Potom and a PWD executive engineer of repeated sexual abuse, claiming he contracted HIV due to exploitation by the second accused.

He held both responsible for his decision to take the extreme step.

Hours after the allegations surfaced, the executive engineer also allegedly died by suicide.

The victim said that he was appointed during Potom's tenure as Deputy Commissioner of Itanagar (2021–2025).

Police said that post-mortems were conducted on both, along with an HIV test on the victim's body.

"We are awaiting the reports," a police officer said.

According to sources, the victim also accused Potom and the executive engineer of large-scale corruption and other "immoral activities".

As the search for Potom continued, the victim's family joined a public protest on Sunday, demanding immediate arrest and action against both accused.

MISCELLANY

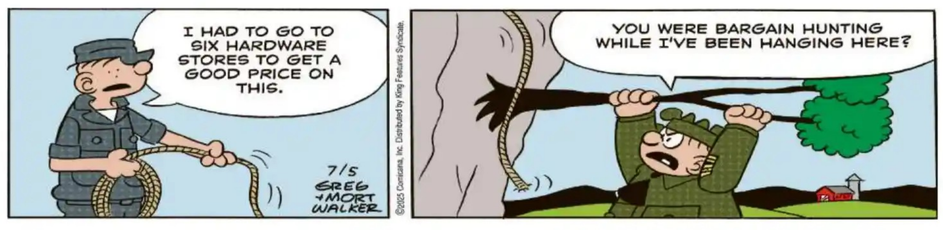
◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

NOW THAT THE MOVIE IS OVER, WHAT DO YOU SAY TO DINNER?
HOW CAN YOU EAT DINNER AFTER ALL THE CANDY, POPCORN AND SODA YOU JUST HAD?
THAT WAS JUST AN APPETIZER!

Hagar The Horrible

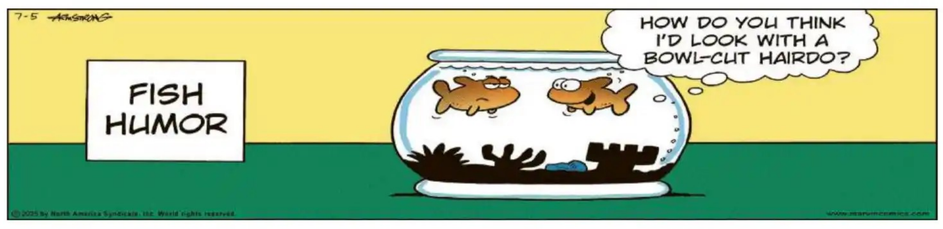
Beetle Bailey



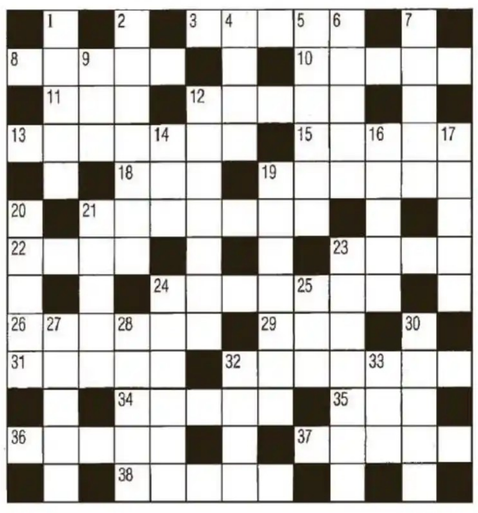
Peanuts

YOU THINK YOU'D BE HAPPY IF YOU WON A BALL GAME, DON'T YOU, CHARLIE BROWN?
THE DOCTOR IS IN
WELL, YOU WOULDN'T! IF YOU WON ONE GAME, YOU'D WANT TO WIN ANOTHER, AND THEN ANOTHER!
SOON YOU'D WANT TO WIN EVERY BALL GAME YOU PLAYED...
YEAHHH!!

Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12274



ACROSS
3 Celebrations (5)
8 Indefinite (5)
10 A premium (5)
11 Place (3)
12 Royal (5)
13 Captures (7)
15 Highland games log (5)
18 Embrace (3)
19 Priest's assistant (6)
21 Reprimands (7)
22 Jetty (4)
23 Acid fruit (4)
24 Of the stomach (7)
26 Puma (6)
29 Intention (3)
31 Guide (5)
32 News (7)
34 Ascended (5)
35 Towboat (3)
36 Appears (5)
37 Boy's name (5)
38 Ignominy (5)

DOWN
1 Tokyo's country (5)
2 Retailer of meat (7)
4 Yes votes (4)
5 Counting frame (6)
6 Of the sun (5)
7 Continental quilt (5)
9 Intestine (3)
12 Normal (7)
14 Core (3)
16 Fundamental (5)
17 Insurgent (5)
19 Sure (7)
20 Glasses (5)
21 Theatrical entertainment (5)
23 Restricted (7)
24 Gaudy (6)
25 To free (3)
27 Freshwater mammal (5)
28 Microbes (5)
30 Aggressiveness (5)
32 Group of players (4)
33 Religious sister (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
3 One place where the last word happens to be first! (5)
8 You can see the artist in him! (5)
10 Drink to my success in a card game (5)
11 Ginger boy? (3)
12 Article in a vehicle, of little weight (5)
13 Titanic object only partly visible (7)
15 Allude to the right to get free, possibly (5)
18 What a cackling female may do (3)
19 How you can get a piece of cake (6)
21 Did one tempt Eve to unwrap a present? (7)
22 Listen to the chap who has a warm heart (4)
23 Jumper for which there may be a market (4)
24 Bigwig's name for a stand-in (7)
26 Like steamy stuff of which to hesitate to take a bit of notice? (6)
29 He always has a kiss for mum (3)
31 Fearful state induced by a deity, I see (5)
32 Half wild, ruggedly stern, they're usually cold (7)
34 It's wrong, maybe, to put the cat out of the room (5)
35 Charger, perhaps, but no horse (3)
36 The underground, in Paris, gives me a bit of trouble (5)
37 No Edwardian is very well known (5)
38 Going round Land's End, you can get near this forest (5)

DOWN
1 Hazel's charming associate (5)
2 He'll risk a stroll within the confines of Gibraltar (7)
4 A haul the hunter may be after? (4)
5 Mountainous art-form for an academician (6)
6 Let us free to make musical instruments (5)
7 Drive roughly a mile out, where there's parking (5)
9 Fishy source of venison? (3)
12 Like an esoteric cry by the wild Pict (7)
14 "The Archers", it seems. has at least one listener! (3)
16 She and I left to fly out (5)
17 Where, in Cumbria, a lady has to turn to the right (5)
19 Object to mice roaming in the locality (7)
20 Mostly female animals (5)
21 Where the hairdresser took Sarah on (5)
23 It takes a wily fellow to run a dance (7)
24 The nominal winner (6)
25 Managed a bit of fun for certain soldiers (3)
27 The bird flew out one day (5)
28 Something headily beautiful (5)
30 Ready to fight for a fanciful dream (5)
32 Communication of some length (4)
33 Consume the greater part (3)

SOLUTIONS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2651

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1 Superb, 4 Stave off, 9 Attila, 10 Function, 12 In action, 13 Stigma, 15 Hide, 16 Come to heel, 19 On one's toes, 20 Zero, 23 Damper, 25 Preamble, 27 Archives, 28 Cinema, 29 Deadline, 30 Hanker.

DOWN: 1 Slavish, 2 Put paid to, 3 Relate, 5 Taut, 6 Vocation, 7 Owing, 8 Fan mail, 11 Toronto, 14 Revelry, 17 Even break, 18 Remedial, 19 Old hand, 21 Open-air, 22 Patina, 24 Mecca, 26 Mean.

◆SU-DO-KU-6735◆

		8	2			6		7
		4	5	9	7		2	1
2			6		8			3
7	9	2	3					
					5	7	8	9
1			9		6			4
5	6		4	3	2	9		
4		9			1	5		

easy

2	4	9	1	5	6	3	7	8
7	6	1	8	3	4	9	2	5
5	8	3	2	9	7	1	6	4
1	2	4	6	8	9	5	3	7
3	7	8	5	1	2	4	9	6
9	5	6	4	7	3	2	8	1
4	3	5	9	6	8	7	1	2
8	9	2	7	4	1	6	5	3
6	1	7	3	2	5	8	4	9

SOLUTION TO 6734

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2025 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

							1st Letter Triple	RACK 1
A1	E1	B3	T1	H4	S1	A1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 2
X8	T1	R1	F4	P3	E1	I1		
								RACK 3
S1	B3	T1	U1	I1	A1	H4		
							Double Word Score	RACK 4
A1	O1	E1	L1	S1	U1	Z10		

PAR SCORE 140-150
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

S1	P3	R1	I1	N1	T1	S1	RACK 1 =	77
R1	E1	M3	O1	R1	S1	E1	RACK 2 =	77
V4	A1	G2	R1	A1	N1	T1	RACK 3 =	83
C3	A1	R1	E1	E1	R1	S1	RACK 4 =	77
							JUDD'S TOTAL	314

PAR SCORE 205-215

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

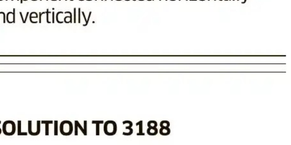
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SENEH

NUVEE

DRACAE

SURTYT


Charging Forward Electric EXPO
Next up- AC/DC multi-adapter and its uses
What did you think about the augmented reality glasses?
It would take wiring a building to a new level.
4/17
THE ELECTRICIANS AT THE CONFERENCE MINGLED AND DISCUSSED ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
All Rights Reserved.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: DEPTH APRON DREDGE ABSURD
Answer: He invented a car engine that ran on potatoes, but it just — "SPUDDERED"

HITORI-3189

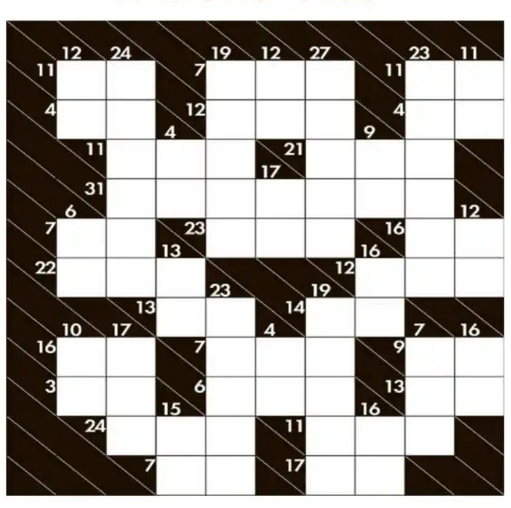
2	2	5	2	1	4	6	6
2	4	6	6	7	6	8	5
4	7	8	1	3	2	5	6
6	8	1	3	6	5	6	7
1	1	3	2	8	2	4	6
6	5	4	6	2	1	7	6
8	2	2	5	6	6	1	3
6	1	7	4	1	8	2	3

SOLUTION TO 3188

■	4	■	2	■	8	7	6
4	3	5	7	1	■	6	■
5	■	8	■	4	1	2	7
1	6	■	4	7	■	3	■
7	■	4	■	8	6	1	5
■	2	1	6	3	4	5	■
8	7	■	3	■	5	■	1
■	5	3	■	6	2	4	8

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3189



SOLUTION TO 3188

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3717

■	7			5			8	■
	■						■	
		■	2			6	9	
			■		■			
		8		7		2		
5	9	4	■		■		6	
		■			6	■	2	5
3	■				2	4	■	
■	8				9	3		■

SOLUTION TO 3716

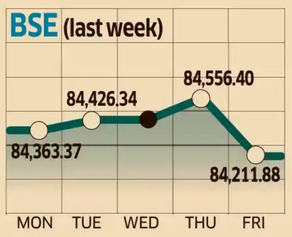
5	6	9	4	2	8	1	7	3
7	8	3	1	9	6	2	4	5
1	2	4	3	5	7	6	8	9
3	9	1	2	7	5	8	6	4
2	4	8	6	1	9	5	3	7
6	5	7	8	4	3	9	1	2
4	3	2	9	6	1	7	5	8
8	7	6	5	3	2	4	9	1
9	1	5	7	8	4	3	2	6

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

DH BUSINESS

DECCAN HERALD
Monday
October 27, 2025

BSE (last week)



*Data as of Oct 24

NSE (last week)

*Markets were closed on Wednesday due to Diwali

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
INFY	5.84%	ETERNAL	-4.70%
BAJAJFINSV	3.69%	ICICI BANK	-4.26%
AXISBANK	3.49%	ULTRACEMCO	-3.65%
TCS	3.37%	ADANIPORTS	-3.41%
HCLTECH	2.44%	HINDUNILVR	-3.35%

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
HINDALCO IND	6.68%	ETERNAL	-4.68%
SHRIRAM FIN	5.91%	ICICI BANK	-4.10%
INFOSYS	5.85%	ULTRACEMCO	-3.65%
BAJAJ FINSERV	3.64%	ADANI PORTS	-3.41%
AXIS BANK	3.47%	HINDUNILVR	-3.35%

Sensex (52-week)

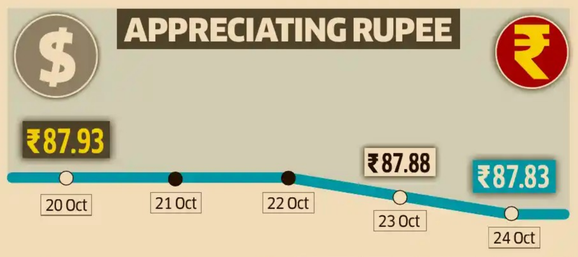
Oct 24, 2024	Oct 24, 2025	
80,065.16	84,211.88	5.18%

Nifty (52-week)

Oct 24, 2024	Oct 24, 2025	
24,399.40	25,795.15	5.72%

10-year Bond yield 6.53%

APPRECIATING RUPEE



*Markets were closed on Oct 21 & 22 due to Diwali

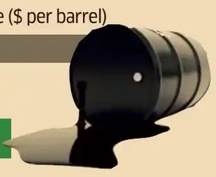
Exchange Rates*

Dollar	₹87.83	SGD	₹67.56
Pound	₹116.84	Yen (100 units)	₹57.33
Euro	₹101.78		

*Price at which banks sell

Crude Oil Rate ($ per barrel)

BRENT CRUDE
$65.94*
-0.08%
*Rate as of Oct 24



Bengaluru fuel pump price*

(Retail)
Petrol* ₹102.92 ₹0.29% ▲
Diesel* ₹90.99 ₹0.27% ▲
*Rates as of Oct 25 #Rate change compared with yesterday

Commodity watch

COFFEE

Category	Rate (Rs per 50 kg)*
Arabica Parchment	₹27500 - 28000
Arabica Cherry	₹14800 - 16800
Robusta Parchment	₹17500 - 18000
Robusta Cherry	₹11200 - 12100

*Rates as on Oct 23

Other Commodities

Silkworm cocoon (Rs per kg)*

Bivoltine (BV)	₹607
Cross Breed (CB)	₹498

*Average rates as on Oct 24

Cybersecurity grapples with acute skill gap

As the month to build awareness passes, analysts say more needs to be done

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the rapid evolution of cyber threats outpacing formal curriculum there is a shortage of skilled workforce in the cyber security domain. As October, observed as Cybersecurity Awareness month, winds down,experts stress on the urgent need for education on digital safety.

"Recent studies estimate a demand for nearly one million cyber security professionals, while the current supply meets only about half of this need," Sundar Balasubramanian, Managing Director, Check Point Software Technologies, India & South Asia, told *DH*.

According to him, this shortfall is also driven by insufficient practical and compliance-oriented skill development in traditional IT programs, and expanding business demands in areas such as cloud, AI, and DevSecOps.

According to Check Point's Threat Intelligence Report, Indian enterprises face an average of 3,233 cyberattacks per week. This number exceeds the global average of 2,002 attacks per organisation over the past six months.

"The most targeted sectors are Education with 7,095 attacks per week, Government with 5,140, and Consumer Goods and Services with 3,889. Attackers, including state sponsored groups and professional hackers, are increasingly leveraging AI to automate and scale operations, resulting in more sophisticated and harder to detect threats," he said.

Ransomware has evolved from simple data encryption to multi-layer extortion, where attackers steal sensitive data and tailor ransom demands, often linked to cyber insurance coverage.

Cloud environments are increasingly at risk due to misconfigurations and insecure APIs (application programming interface).

"The expansion of attacks into Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities highlights the broadening threat landscape. State sponsored advanced persistent threats such as APT36 are using cloud platforms for espionage against strategic sectors. Looking ahead, the misuse of AI is expected to amplify social engineering, phishing, and deepfake driven attacks, while emerging technologies such as quantum computing may redefine future threats," he said.

> "Recent studies estimate a demand for nearly one million cyber security professionals, while the current supply meets only about half of this need."
>
> **SUNDAR BALASUBRAMANIAN**
> Managing Director, Check Point Software Technologies, India & South Asia

He added that to address these challenges, organisations must adopt AI powered defence tools, advanced Security Operations Centres, and Zero Trust frameworks for real time, prevention-first security.

"Cyber threats such as phishing, malware links, and data breaches have been evolving, and the numbers of cyber-attacks are exponentially increasing. A mobile user is unaware of how exposed and at risk their personal information and communications are. It is essential that we become more cyber-aware and use precautionary measures to safeguard our digital lives," said Srinivas L, Joint MD and Joint CEO for 63SATS Cybertech.

Cybersecurity in 2026

Research firm Forrester in its latest Cyber Security & Risk Predictions 2026 report explored five predictions for cybersecurity, risk and privacy in 2026. Its five key predictions include that an agentic AI deployment will cause a public breach and lead to employee dismissals; and quantum security spending will exceed 5% of the overall IT security budget.

Balasubramanian of Check Point Software Technologies said, "As we look towards 2026, Indian businesses are expected to face rapidly evolving cyber threats driven by generative AI and autonomous attack tools. AI-powered phishing, deepfake impersonation, and synthetic cyberattacks targeting both text and multimedia will become more widespread and harder to detect, putting executive communications, financial transactions, and customer data at risk."

The rise of ransomware-as-a-service and machine-driven social engineering will enable cybercriminals of varying technical skill to carry out highly targeted campaigns, increasing breach likelihood across sectors.

"Critical infrastructure, especially in power, energy, and financial services, will become key targets as digital transformation accelerates. This will drive stricter cyber security regulations and mandatory audits starting January 2026. Emerging attack vectors will include prompt injection and model hijacking in generative AI systems, large-scale supply chain attacks, and malware leveraging autonomous agents that adapt in real time to bypass defences," he explained.

He further noted that organisations must adopt AI-driven monitoring and response platforms, invest in employee awareness around deepfake threats, enforce regular vulnerability assessments, and build robust incident response plans.

Growing demand for talent

The need for cybersecurity talent is rising rapidly across BFSI, retail, healthcare and manufacturing. Kapil Joshi, CEO, Quess IT Staffing, Quess Corp said financial institutions are investing heavily in secure credit systems, fraud detection and digital payment infrastructure. In healthcare, the growing use of telemedicine and patient-data platforms has increased the urgency for privacy and compliance.

Retail organisations are also strengthening their defences for e-commerce platforms where each transaction generates sensitive information. According to the Quess GCC Report, cybersecurity continues to record steady momentum as organisations deepen investments in AI-led risk controls and compliance visibility.

"The report also notes an 18% skill gap in this area, making it one of the most talent-constrained domains across digital functions. BFSI has seen a sharp rise in digital hiring, much of it focused on risk and compliance automation as institutions modernise their systems to align with tighter regulatory oversight and data-governance standards. Tier-2 cities such as Kochi, Coimbatore and Indore have recorded a quarterly growth of 5-9% in areas like cloud security testing and AI incident response, indicating that talent is spreading beyond metros and into new delivery hubs," Joshi said.

SAFETY IN EDUCATION

How Masai School is securing learning in the AI era

As AI reshapes the future of education, cybersecurity has become as vital as innovation. In an exclusive interaction with **Caroline Diana** of *DH*, **Nrupul Dev,** Co-Founder and CTO of Masai School, discusses how the AI-first edtech platform safeguards data, ensures algorithmic fairness, and prepares learners for an era where technology and trust must grow together.

Masai School brands itself as an AI-powered learning platform. How are you integrating AI responsibly while ensuring that data privacy and platform security are not compromised?
At Masai, we follow a two-layer AI architecture. There's a centralised AI layer that manages routing and governance, and then we use self-hosted open-source models for most of our major internal tasks. This set-up ensures sensitive data never leaves our secure environment. Every AI interaction is designed with context minimisation in mind, and we have provider-level guardrails to maintain data privacy and compliance with leading security standards. We focus on using AI responsibly, without compromising on safety and privacy.

Edtech platforms hold sensitive information—from student performance to hiring partner data. What are the key cybersecurity challenges you face, and how are you addressing them?
You are absolutely right! Edtech companies are custodians of sensitive information. Our biggest challenge lies in protecting multiple data types — academic, behavioural, and professional — from diverse sources. We address this through a three-tier approach: In-house cybersecurity experts overseeing data protection, external third-party audits to validate our defences and bug bounty programmes that invite ethical hackers to identify vulnerabilities proactively.

With cyberattacks rising across industries, how are you equipping learners with skills relevant to cybersecurity or secure coding practices, even if they're not training as security specialists?
Security awareness is everyone's responsibility, whether or not you are a cybersecurity professional. That's why every Masai programme includes a core cybersecurity module covering secure coding, data protection principles, and real-world vulnerabilities. We also host industry-led sessions where cybersecurity professionals share current threat trends and hands-on defence practices, helping learners develop a security-first mindset regardless of their specialisation. The idea is to help every learner develop a security-first mindset.

As AI begins to influence student evaluation, mentoring, and career matching, what safeguards do you have to ensure fairness, transparency, and accountability in those algorithms?
That's a key area of focus for us. All our AI-driven processes — from assessment to recommendation — go through multiple model validations. Any discrepancy between outputs triggers a human review layer. We maintain clear audit trails and regularly assess our models for bias, consistency, and explainability, ensuring fairness and accountability in every decision. This layered approach ensures that our decisions are efficient and fair.

Masai has scaled rapidly over the past few years. How do you balance speed of growth and product innovation with the discipline that cybersecurity demands?
It's definitely a balancing act, and we take it very seriously. We have built a centralised service architecture with robust monitoring, logging, and version control baked in. Every new product or feature must pass through security gates before deployment. Additionally, independent audits ensure that while innovation moves fast, our compliance and data protection remain uncompromised.

Do you collaborate with cybersecurity firms or technology partners to expose students to real-world cyber defense scenarios or emerging AI security intersections?
Yes, our learners actively participate in industry hackathons and penetration testing exercises in collaboration with partner companies. These engagements give them hands-on exposure to live cybersecurity challenges and practical insights into how AI and security intersect in real-world systems. It's where theory meets practice.

As AI and cybersecurity converge—attackers using AI as much as defenders—what trends do you see shaping the future of secure learning ecosystems?
The future of secure learning lies in human-AI collaboration. While AI enhances detection and response, human judgment and ethical reasoning will remain critical in defining boundaries. We're also seeing a shift toward multi-model security frameworks, where several AI systems cross-validate decisions to reduce the risk of manipulation or bias. The future of secure learning will depend on this balance between intelligence and integrity.

> While AI enhances detection and response, human judgment and ethical reasoning will remain critical in defining boundaries.
>
> **NRUPUL DEV,** Co-Founder & CTO, Masai School

Equal work, unequal wages: Pay gap persists for gig workers

MUMBAI, PTI

Even as festive hiring for the year surged, wage parity between gig and permanent employees remained unresolved, with 47% of respondents believing there is a pay gap, a report has revealed.

When asked how the hourly pay of gig or freelance workers compares to that of permanent employees for the same role, 11 per cent respondents said earnings were up to 10% less, 23% said wages were 10-25% lower and 13%revealed the gap exceeds 25%, according to the report by Genius HRTech (formerly Genius Consultants).

Collectively, the report found that nearly half of the workforce -- 47% -- believe gig workers are paid less than their permanent counterparts, revealing a persistent disparity that continues to shadow India's festive hiring landscape.

The report by workforce staffing services and HR Solutions provider is based on a Digipoll survey among 1,550 professionals across industries during September 1-30, 2025.

"The festive economy thrives on the agility and contribution of gig workers, yet our data shows they continue to operate on unequal terms. The principle of 'equal pay for equal work' must extend beyond permanent contracts. Fair compensation, skill-building, and transparency are key to creating a future-ready, motivated gig workforce," Genius HRTech Chairman and Managing Director R P Yadav added.

FMCG MNCs face disruption in Q2, upbeat about future growth

GST & rains played wet blanket on their performance

NEW DELHI, PTI

Multinational FMCG companies selling soap to soft drinks in the Indian market reported some impact on their sales in the September quarter from disruption owing to GST reforms, along with unusually heavy rains in parts of the country, but they see growth in the coming quarters, helped by favourable macro-economic conditions.

Leading global markers, including Unilever, Reckitt, Heineken, PepsiCo, and Coca-Cola, in their respective earnings calls, have mentioned challenges they faced due to disruptions in trade channels in September.

"Our emerging market performance is improving; India, in particular, is very well positioned over the medium term. The GST reform has had some impact in the short-term, but we believe it is very good news for 40 per cent of our portfolio with close to a 10% price reduction," Unilever CEO Fernando Fernandez said.

British FMCG major Reckitt said its net revenue growth in India was impacted in the September quarter due to the implementation of new GST slabs; however, it reported volume-led growth in its germ protection brand Dettol.

Replying to a query in the earnings call, Reckitt CFO Shannon Eisenhardt said "the impact in Q3 of GST phasing being low to mid-single digits and that our India like-for-like was low single digit in Q3."

Reckitt CEO Kris Licht, who was also on the call, said the company has a very successful business in China and India.

"Both of those businesses have been delivering great performance now for a long time. We have a big opportunity to take the next tranche of markets to that level of excellence and execution, and that's a big focus at the moment in our emerging markets portfolio," he said.

Dutch brewing major Heineken NV, which owns United Breweries Ltd (UBL) said its India beer volume has been impacted with a decline of "mid-single-digit" in the September quarter of 2025 on account of unusual heavy rains in parts of the country during the monsoon.

However, its organic net revenue grew by a 'mid-single-digit', which is largely supported by price hikes in some of the key states along with a portfolio mix.

Hienekin CFO Harold van den Broek said: "In India, organic net revenue (beia) 4 grew by a mid-single-digit, while beer volume fell by a mid-single-digit, impacted by the monsoon season. We outperformed the market."

American Cola majors Coca-Cola and PepsiCo also reported disruptions from rain in the September quarter.

PepsiCo Inc Chairman & Chief Executive Officer Ramon L Laguarta said the September quarter was impacted because of weather conditions.

Without naming any rivals, he said the beverage market is witnessing competition that may impact growth in the next few quarters. Replying to a query on macro pressures in regions like Latin America, Asia Pacific, he said: "We're seeing growth in India. India was more impacted by weather, and there's some competitive situation in the beverage category that will affect the growth maybe for a few quarters, but coming back strong"

The Coca-Cola Co Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice President Henrique Gnani Braun said on earnings calls that its volumes declined in Asia Pacific markets, including India, due to "Inclement weather" during the monsoon season.

However, while replying to a query, Chairman and CEO James Quincey said in the emerging market business, India has at one end "huge potential for growth in volume over many, many years" but at "much lower prices".

French spirits major Pernod Ricard said its India sales were up 3% in the latest quarter; however, it was impacted due to excise policy changes in Maharashtra.

"While enjoying strong underlying consumer demand dynamics, sales in India are negatively impacted by the excise policy changes in Maharashtra implemented in July," said Pernod Ricard CFO Hélène de Tissot.

India sees strong sales growth, both on Royal Stag and especially on international brands led by Jameson. "For the full year, we are expecting the excise policy change to continue to weigh on our overall sales performance, though with continued favorable and dynamic underlying trends," he said.

Swiss maker Nestle SA has mentioned India in its global earnings, noting "strong performance" and "good momentum".

Gold braces for turbulence ahead of central bank, geopolitical triggers: Analysts

NEW DELHI, PTI: Gold prices are likely to witness some consolidation in the domestic markets next week as investors brace for a series of key central bank meetings and global trade developments, analysts said.

Investors will keenly follow the US Federal Reserve's (Fed) policy outcome and remarks from Fed Chair Jerome Powell for cues on the interest rate decision.

The US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping's meeting in South Korea, and the European Central Bank's policy review on Thursday are also expected to steer the trajectory of precious metal prices, they added.

"Gold prices closed in negative for the first time in ten trading weeks, on profit-booking at recent tops, weakening physical demand in Asian centres like India & China, and further weighed by a stronger US dollar," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG -- Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services Ltd, said.

He said physical demand in India weakened in the latter part of the week as buyers trimmed purchases in anticipation of a deeper price correction while lower prices sparked buying interest in China and Singapore.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for December delivery fell by Rs 3,557, or 2.80%.

TOP PICKS

The data is sourced from Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited

Laurus Labs
(ID: LAURUSLABS)
BUY
Upside +20%**
Last close ₹924
Target: ₹1,110*

360 ONE WAM
(ID: 360ONE)
BUY
Upside +22%**
Last close ₹1,184
Target: ₹1,450*

Bharat Electronics
(ID: BEL)
BUY
Upside +16%**
Last close ₹422
Target: ₹490*

Delhivery
(ID: DELHIVERY)
BUY
Upside +16%**
Last close ₹466
Target: ₹540*

Maruti Suzuki
(ID: MARUTI)
BUY
Upside +14%**
Last close ₹16,267
Target: ₹18,501*

* Target price has been calculated on the basis of fundamentals ** Upside refers to more value stock is expected to generate than its current price

Building generational wealth with gold & silver

VIKASH WADEKAR
HEAD – PASSIVES BUSINESS, AXIS MUTUAL FUND

Gold and silver - their ability to outlast paper systems and maintain relevance across centuries is exactly what makes them invaluable in the current moment. In 2025, that timeless appeal is once again in the spotlight as gold surges past $3,475 per ounce and silver trades above $40 per ounce, their highest levels in years, according to Axis MF's internal research. This rally is not just a reflection of market froth; it underscores their status as wealth preservers across generations—a role that feels deeply relevant in today's uncertain environment.

Why they still matter

The numbers tell the story: central banks around the world accumulated around 166 tonnes of gold in the second quarter of 2025 alone, with emerging market economies leading purchases as they diversify away from dollar reserves. Exchange-traded funds (ETFs), meanwhile, soaked up more than 400 tonnes in the first half of the year, highlighting strong investor appetite despite record-high spot prices. What makes 2025 a landmark year is not only global demand, but also the domestic milestone, with gold having surged past Rs 100,000 per 10 grams.

If gold remains the classic story of stability, silver has taken the spotlight as the high-beta commodity of 2025. Prices are up at the fastest pace in thirteen years, propelling the metal to $40 per ounce and beyond. Unlike gold, the case for silver is built on a hybrid demand profile that bridges wealth preservation with industrial innovation. These megatrends tie silver directly to global growth and decarbonisation, making it not merely a hedge against uncertainty but also a participant in progress. Investment flows into silver mirror this enthusiasm. ETF holdings hit a record 95 million ounces in the first half of 2025, surpassing the total registered in all of 2024. For investors, this underscores silver's volatility but also its potential for outsized gains.

Complementary roles

While the metals share safe-haven status, their respective strengths position them as complementary rather than competitive. Gold is the ultimate reserve asset, functioning as a hedge against monetary instability, geopolitical strife, and systemic shocks. Silver, on the other hand, straddles two worlds. It mirrors gold in moments of risk aversion, while also tracking industrial demand as global economies grow and electrify. This dual characteristic makes it a unique player in portfolios.

Commodities are distinct in that they stand outside the traditional equity-bond framework, providing diversification in its truest sense. For families and investors focused on generational wealth, gold and silver occupy a special seat. Balanced exposure to both metals creates portfolios capable of enduring through multiple macroeconomic regimes, transmitting not just assets but financial resilience to future generations.

Risks and considerations

As with any asset class, investing in gold and silver warrants a clear-eyed view of associated risks. Policy remains a crucial variable: a change in the Federal Reserve's rate trajectory or shifts in US domestic politics could affect global capital flows and in turn, metal demand. On the supply side, miners could respond to sustained high prices by expanding capacity. While silver remains constrained by its nature as a by-product, prolonged rallies could encourage exploration and resource activation over the medium term. Investors must therefore adopt a disciplined, long-term perspective rather than viewing short-run corrections as verdicts on the metals' fundamental worth.

Commodities for the long haul

Given the evolving dynamics of global markets and the increasing relevance of commodities in portfolio diversification, it is evident that allocating at least 10% to 15% of one's investment portfolio to these metals can serve as a strategic lever—not only for long-term wealth creation but also for enhancing risk-adjusted returns. This disciplined allocation has the potential to significantly improve the overall investment experience by balancing volatility and offering a hedge against macroeconomic uncertainties.

Mcap of 7 of top-10 most valued firms jumps by Rs 1.55 L cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms jumped by Rs 1,55,710.74 crore in the holiday-shortened last week, with Reliance Industries and Tata Consultancy Services emerging as the biggest gainers, amid a positive trend in domestic equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark climbed 259.69 points or 0.30%. On Thursday, the 30-share BSE Sensex hit its 52-week high of 85,290.06.

From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) were the gainers, while HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Hindustan Unilever saw their valuations erode.

Reliance Industries added Rs 46,687.03 crore, taking its market valuation to Rs 19,64,170.74 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of TCS jumped by Rs 36,126.6 crore to Rs 11,08,021.21 crore.

The valuation of Infosys surged by Rs 34,938.51 crore to Rs 6,33,712.38 crore, and that of State Bank of India climbed by Rs 13,892.07 crore to Rs 8,34,817.05 crore.

The mcap of Bajaj Finance edged higher by Rs 11,947.17 crore to Rs 6,77,846.36 crore, while that of Bharti Airtel rose by Rs 9,779.11 crore to Rs 11,57,014.19 crore.

LIC added Rs 2,340.25 crore, taking its market valuation to Rs 5,62,513.67 crore.

However, the mcap of ICICI Bank eroded by Rs 43,744.59 crore to Rs 9,82,746.76 crore.

The valuation of Hindustan Unilever dived by Rs 20,523.68 crore to Rs 5,91,486.10 crore, and that of HDFC Bank declined by Rs 11,983.68 crore to Rs 15,28,227.10 crore.

Reliance Industries remained the most valued domestic firm, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, TCS, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever Ltd and LIC.

Lenskart to launch IPO on Oct 31

NEW DELHI, PTI: Eyewear retailer Lenskart Solutions is gearing up to launch its initial public offering (IPO) on October 31, aiming to raise Rs 2,150 crore through a fresh issue of shares.

This marks its much-awaited entry into the public markets.

The company's maiden public offering would conclude on November 4, and the bidding for anchor investors would open for a day on October 30, according to the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP).

Apart from the fresh issue, there would be an offer-for-sale (OFS) component, in which promoters and investors would offload over 12.75 crore equity shares.

As a part of the OFS, promoters -- Peyush Bansal, Neha Bansal, Amit Chaudhary and Sumeet Kapahi; and investors -- SVF II Lightbulb (Cayman) Ltd, Schroders Capital Private Equity Asia Mauritius Ltd, PI Opportunities Fund ' II, Macritchie Investments Pte. Ltd., Kedaara Capital Fund II LLP, and Alpha Wave Ventures LP -- would offload shares.

Lenskart proposes to utilise the proceeds from the IPO for various strategic initiatives, including capital expenditure for setting up new company-operated, company-owned (CoCo) stores in India. Last week, Radhakishan Damani, founder of Avenue Supermarts(DMart), invested around Rs 90 crore in the pre-IPO funding round.

Plots or apartments: Where to invest?

It would largely depend on your financial goals & ability to wait for returns

SAURABH GARG

Plots and apartments are popular investment options that directly impact returns. Plot vs. apartment investments are commonly confusing decisions as each property type comes with its respective set of pros and cons that vary based on buyers' investment objectives. Plots are undeveloped sections of land that grant complete ownership rights of the land and any future construction to the owner. Flats or Apartments, on the other hand, are residential accommodations located in a larger complex with access to shared amenities that offer better quality of life. Plots appreciate faster due to limited land supply, whereas apartments can provide an immediate stream of rental income that plots cannot compete with.

In fact in plots, there is now an option to invest in gated plots so there is no fear of someone squatting. Gated plots are more in demand nowadays.

Pros & cons of a plot

Advantages

1. Unlimited design freedom - Purchasing land provides the buyer with immense flexibility to build and customize these plots as per their needs into residential or agricultural plots.
2. Higher long-term appreciation - Plots appreciate faster due to limited land supply, Typically, they see an annual increase of 10%-12% compared to the 5%-8% that apartments offer. In prime locations, the value of land can increase immensely in the future.
3. Less competitive market segment - The market for apartments has high competition as people are aiming to live in complexes to improve access to social circles, shared amenities for kids and senior citizens, and better locations. As a result, the market for land is frequently less competitive and makes it easier to obtain plots without too much hassle.
4. If buying for investment purposes from a distance, gated plots are a great option.

Disadvantages

1. Additional development costs - Significant investment will be required to prepare the land for building, get the required permits and actually build the desired property. These fees might easily increase based on conditions in respective markets and hamper buyers' plans.
2. No guarantee of income generation - Plots require initial investment and building and do not provide immediate income as flats do. Furthermore, the extent of income generation solely depends on the location, cost and facilities. Due to fluctuations in the economy or consumer preferences in that location, plots cannot guarantee a return on hefty investment. Investors must research the area and prospects thoroughly before purchasing them.
3. High liability - Since the land and construction are owned by the buyer, they will be responsible for maintaining the property, protecting it from trespassers and ensuring any related legal disputes are resolved. This gives the owner additional responsibilities as a result of owning the land.

Investing in an apartment

Advantages

1. Immediate use - Unlike plots, apartments are available for immediate use. Investors can start earning rental money with minimal additional investment (depending on the condition that the flat is bought in, renovation costs might apply in case of resale properties and furnishing costs might exist in the case of new projects).
2. Amenities - Apartment complexes offer a myriad amenities that serve leisurely and practical purposes. Some leisurely amenities include lounges, gyms, swimming pools and children play areas. Gated security, fire safety and housekeeping/maintenance are some practical reasons for choosing flats.

Disadvantages

1. Limited customisation - Flats have fixed layouts and designs, leaving the interior as the only customisable aspect. There isn't much freedom to make significant changes to the structure of the apartment.
2. Apartments will appreciate slower in comparison to plots. As they age, the percentage with which they appreciate typically reduces unless the area is an upcoming one.

Recommendations

When choosing between a plot and an apartment, it all comes down to your priorities and investment goals. You should choose a plot if you're looking to build long-term wealth, value customisability and tap into the high appreciation potential of land and are comfortable with a delayed return on investment. On the other hand, you should opt for an apartment if you're looking for immediate rental income, and are fine with lesser appreciation over time.

To reiterate

Both plots and flats offer unique advantages, but they also have their respective drawbacks. The right choice depends upon your financial goals. Make sure to evaluate your options carefully and make the right choice for you.

(The writer is Co-founder & CBO, NoBroker)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Expect firm and steady markets riding on optimism

Key global interest rate decisions & other macros to weigh in

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA

This week, Indian equities are likely to remain firm, supported by better than expected Q2 earnings so far, robust festive demand during Diwali and renewed optimism over a potential India–US trade deal. On Monday, markets would react to the US monthly CPI (retail inflation) data released on Friday and the quarterly result of banking heavyweight Kotak Mahindra bank announced over the weekend.

This will be a macro-heavy week, with investors closely tracking key data, including US Q3 GDP, interest rate decisions from the US Federal Reserve, European Central Bank (ECB), and Bank of Japan, along with China's manufacturing PMI and India's Industrial Production data. The interplay of these global and domestic factors will guide near-term market direction and sectoral trends.

Last week, Nifty50 surged past the 26k mark on Thursday, reclaiming the milestone after more than a year; although it could not sustain above the 26000 levels. Profit booking at higher levels and caution ahead of key global macro data capped the upside momentum. Nifty ended the week with a gain of 85 points at 25,795 (+0.3%). The broader market outperformed with Nifty Midcap100 and Smallcap100 up by 0.6% and 0.7% respectively. Nifty IT index was amongst the top sectoral gainers, up 3%.

Sentiments in the banking sector remained upbeat amid landmark deals — Emirates NBD's 26,850 crore acquisition of 60% in RBL Bank and Blackstone's 6,200 crore stake in Federal Bank. This also revived M&A / FDI excitement in the sector.

Shares of automobile companies, especially passenger vehicles (PVs) and two-wheelers (2Ws) makers were in the limelight post record festive sales during Diwali. While investors remain cautious about whether this momentum will sustain post-festive season and as discounts taper, the near-term outlook is strong, supported by healthy wholesales and pent-up demand. Two-wheeler demand is gradually improving, and commercial vehicles are benefiting from stronger pricing discipline and better leverage, positioning the segment well for a recovery.

The cement industry saw a marginal 1% month-till-date price decline in Octobdf, primarily driven by softer prices in the South and East, while other regions remained stable. Demand was muted amid the festive season, extended monsoon, and labour shortages but is expected to recover from mid-November with renewed construction activity. With increasing consolidation and strategic investments in green power and logistics, the cement industry is well-positioned for sustainable growth.

Key results this week include Maruti, L&T, BEL, ITC, Godrej Consumer, Cipla, IOCL, HPCL, SRF, TVS Motor, Tata Capital amongst others. Upbeat management commentaries and FII inflows could help sustain positive market momentum, though intermittent profit booking cannot be ruled out. Meanwhile, any progress on the India-US trade deal front, could further uplift investor sentiments.

(The writer is Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd)

Interest rate decisions of the Federal Reserve, European Central Bank and Bank of Japan seen influencing the markets this week.

DH REVIEW

Apple iPhone 17 Pro Max: Big, meaningful upgrades

ROHIT K V N
BENGALURU, DHNS

Starting at Rs 1,49,900, the iPhone 17 Pro Max is Apple's most advanced smartphone yet. It features the largest display, biggest battery, superior cameras, and the most powerful processor compared to the standard iPhone 17 and the new iPhone Air.

Design, build quality & display

Apple has made the most significant design change since the iPhone 11 Pro in 2019 with the iPhone 17 Pro Max. Instead of the familiar triple-camera setup in a square module, there's now a massive camera plateau taking up nearly one-third of the back. This bold change was needed to include an efficient thermal management system.

Apple has also switched from titanium to 7000-series aluminium alloy for the Pro models. This material is lighter than titanium and over 20 times more thermally conductive, which means better heat dissipation.

Our review unit in Deep Blue looks stunning in sunlight. However, the crowd favourite seems to be the vibrant Cosmic Orange, with Silver also available for those who prefer a more refined look.

The metal back panel and flat rails are more prone to scratches and dents if dropped on rough surfaces, so a protective case is highly recommended.

The frosted glass back with a matte finish does a great job of repelling fingerprint smudges. Apple has included Ceramic Shield (gen 1) on the back and an advanced Ceramic Shield 2, offering better scratch resistance than before. It also has an IP68 water-and-dust-resistant rating.

It boasts a massive 6.9-inch Super Retina XDR OLED display and offers a peak brightness of 3,000 nits. ProMotion technology with a 120Hz adaptive refresh rate and an anti-glare coating offers smooth scrolling, vibrant visuals, and clear visibility even under direct sunlight.

The FaceID biometric security on the iPhone 17 Pro series is top-notch.

Performance

Inside, the iPhone 17 Pro Max is powered by the 28-core A19 Pro chip. It also supports hardware-accelerated ray tracing tech to deliver an immersive gaming experience.

The new thermal management system features an innovative vapour chamber laser-welded into the chassis. It does a fine job of efficiently dissipating the excess heat while performing heavy-duty tasks.

The device runs iOS 26 out of the box. It brings a refreshing Liquid Glass UI, but there are also some minor bugs. These can be fixed with future software updates.

Under normal use, it can easily last more than a day. It also supports fast charging—up to 40W wired and 30W MagSafe wireless.

Connectivity and safety features

The iPhone 17 Pro Max comes with Ultra-Wideband and Apple's proprietary N1 wireless networking chip to support Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 6, and Thread technology. This promises to enhance the performance of the Personal Hotspot and AirDrop features.

The device also features Crash Detection, and in select regions, it supports emergency satellite connectivity.

Photography

With an all-new triple-camera system—48MP Fusion Main, 48MP Fusion Ultra Wide, and 48MP Fusion Telephoto lenses, the iPhone 17 Pro Max excels in almost all light conditions.

It captures amazing images with vibrant colours and minute details (under macro mode) in natural sunny light. At night too, it takes nice, sharp photos, perfectly balancing the light from street lamps or neon bill boards.

The Telephoto lens offers up to 8X optical zoom and up to 40X digital zoom, maintaining good quality up to 20X.

The front-facing 18MP Centre Stage FaceTime camera supports wider angles, AI-powered framing, and ultra-stabilised 4K HDR video recording.

Final thoughts

The iPhone 17 Pro Max is a powerhouse packed with meaningful upgrades in design, performance, and photography.

East Timor joins ASEAN in bloc's first expansion since 1990s

KUALA LUMPUR, AP: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations welcomed East Timor as its newest member Sunday, which its prime minister said was a "dream realised" for the tiny nation. Meanwhile, Cambodia and Thailand signed an agreement expanding a ceasefire on their borders with the hope it will lead to a lasting peace.

"Today, history is made," Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao told the other leaders as the flag of East Timor, also known as Timor Leste, was added to the other 10 on the stage at a formal ceremony in Kuala Lumpur.

It was ASEAN's first expansion since the 1990s and was more than a decade in the making.

"For the people of Timor Leste, this is not only a dream realised, but a powerful affirmation of our journey — one marked by resilience, determination and hope," he said.

The ceremony marked the opening of ASEAN's annual summit, followed by two days of high-level engagements with key partners including China, Japan, India, Australia, Russia, South Korea and the US.

Shortly after his arrival on Sunday, US President Donald Trump took part as Cambodia and Thailand signed a formal expansion of the ceasefire that he helped broker this summer to end their border conflict.

Pak changes certain routes between Karachi, Lahore regions

KARACHI, PTI: The Pakistan Airports Authority has announced changes in certain routes for Karachi and Lahore flight regions from October 28 to ensure "continued safety and effective management of air traffic".

The PAA said the changes are effective from Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 5:01 am Pakistan Standard Time (PKT) and will remain in place until Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 9 am PKT," said a NOTAM (notice to airmen) issued by the PAA.

Although there has been no official word about it, the step by the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) is said to have been taken in anticipation of a military exercise/weapons test by India as part of its Tri series exercise across the border this week, a source said.

However, the PAA said, "This is a routine operational safety matter. The measure is being implemented for 'operational reasons' to ensure the continued safety and effective management of air traffic."

Since the May conflict between India and Pakistan after 26 people were killed by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, Pakistan has several times extended its ban on Indian airlines flying over its airspace, as the two countries continue to block each other's commercial flights due to political tensions.

Pakistan authorities have closed its airspace to Indian-registered airplanes flights.

US, China edge closer to trade pact ahead of leaders' meeting

We have successful framework for the leaders to discuss on Thursday: Bessent

KUALA LUMPUR, REUTERS

US President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping. REUTERS FILE

Top Chinese and US economic officials agreed on the framework for a trade agreement on Sunday as US President Donald Trump said he was confident of hashing out a deal with Chinese President Xi Jinping when they meet in the coming days.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Trade Representative Jamieson Greer met with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng and top trade negotiator Li Chenggang on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur for a fifth round of in-person discussions since May.

"I think we have a very successful framework for the leaders to discuss on Thursday," Bessent told reporters.

Bessent told NBC's "Meet the Press" that he anticipated the agreement would defer China's expanded export controls on rare earth minerals and magnets and avoid a new 100% U.S. tariff on Chinese goods threatened by Trump.

He said Trump and Xi would discuss soybean and agricultural purchases from American farmers, more balanced trade and resolving the U.S. fentanyl crisis, which was the basis of 20% U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods.

China's Li said both sides had reached a "preliminary consensus" and will next go through their respective internal approval processes.

"The U.S. position has been tough," Li said. "We have experienced very intense consultations and engaged in constructive exchanges in exploring solutions and arrangements to address these concerns."

Trump arrived in Malaysia on Sunday for a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, his first stop in a five-day Asia tour that is expected to culminate in a face-to-face with Xi in South Korea on October 30.

After the talks, he struck a positive tone, saying: "I think we're going to have a deal with China".

Trade truce

Both sides are looking to avert an escalation of their trade war after Trump threatened new 100% tariffs on Chinese goods and other trade curbs starting on November 1, in retaliation for China's expanded export controls on rare earth magnets and minerals.

Beijing and Washington rolled back most of their triple-digit tariffs on each other's goods under a trade truce, which is due to expire on November 10.

The U.S. and Chinese officials said they discussed trade expansion, an extension of the truce, fentanyl, U.S. port entrance fees, rare earths, TikTok and more.

GETTING THERE

- Trump optimistic of deal with China
- US Treasury Sec Bessent says extension of trade truce possible
- China's trade negotiator Li says reached preliminary consensus
- World's two largest economies seek to avert trade war escalation
- Talks explored trade, rare earths, fentanyl, TikTok

Putin hails nuclear cruise missile trial success

MOSCOW, PTI: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday announced the successful test of a unique nuclear powered 'Burevestnik' cruise missile with unlimited range and ordered the armed forces to prepare infrastructure for its deployment.

Putin, in his televised meeting with the chief of defence staff and other military commanders, mentioned that during recent drills of nuclear forces, the 'Burevestnik' cruise was in the air for 15 hours and covered 14,000 kilometres during successful trials.

As the Supreme Commander of Russia's Armed Forces, Putin visited the joint staff of military operations in Ukraine earlier in the morning and interacted with force commanders led by Chief General Staff Gen Valery Gerasimov.

Gerasimov briefed Putin about the encirclement of more than 10,000 Ukrainian troops in two vital directions.

"A large group of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, comprising 31 battalions, has been blocked," Gerasimov said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A man wearing a mask depicting jailed Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, flashes V-sign during a protest near Justice Palace, ahead of Imamoglu's expected testimony in a new probe over alleged espionage, in Istanbul, Turkiye, on Sunday. REUTERS

Kurdish PKK says it is withdrawing forces from Turkiye to Iraq

▶ The Kurdish militant PKK said Sunday it was withdrawing all its forces from Turkiye to northern Iraq, urging Ankara to take legal steps to protect the peace process, reports AFP from Qandil Mountains.

The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) formally renounced its armed struggle against Turkiye in May, drawing a line under four decades of violence that has claimed some 50,000 lives.

"We are implementing the withdrawal of all our forces within Turkiye," the PKK said in a statement read out at a ceremony in the Qandil area of northern Iraq, according to an AFP journalist present.

At the ceremony were 25 fighters -- eight of them women -- whom the PKK said had just left Turkiye. Turkiye hailed the move as "concrete results of progress" in efforts to end one of the region's longest-running conflicts.

But the PKK urged the Turkish government to waste no time in taking the necessary legal steps to advance the process, which began a year ago when Ankara offered an unexpected olive branch to its jailed leader Abdullah Ocalan.

Yemen frees model after 5 yrs

▶ Yemen's Huthi rebels have released model Entisar al-Hammadi after holding her in prison for nearly five years, her lawyer and a security source told AFP on Sunday, reports AFP from Sanaa .

Hammadi, 23, was arrested in February 2021 in Sanaa while heading to a photo shoot.

She was sentenced to five years in prison on charges of prostitution, drug abuse and fornication -- charges described by her lawyer and rights groups as false and targeting women's liberties.

"Entisar al-Hammadi was released yesterday evening and is now in her home," her lawyer, Khaled al-Kamal, told AFP.

A crane hoists the recovered fuselage section of an ACT Airlines Boeing 747-400 cargo aircraft, wet leased by Emirates SkyCargo, in Hong Kong on Sunday, after it veered off an airport runway on October 20. AFP

UK police arrest 'freed' sex abuser

▶ UK police on Sunday arrested an Ethiopian asylum seeker and convicted sex offender, whose crimes had sparked anti-immigration protests, after he was accidentally released from prison in an embarrassing blunder by officials, reports AFP from London.

London's Metropolitan Police said officers arrested Hadush Kebatu in the north of the capital nearly 48 hours after he was mistakenly freed.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Kebatu would now be deported.

"We have ordered an investigation to establish what went wrong. We must make sure this doesn't happen again," he added on X. Kebatu, 38, had served the first month of a one-year sentence for sexually assaulting a teenage girl and a woman.

7 injured in US varsity shooting

▶ Authorities said at least seven people were injured at a shooting at Pennsylvania's Lincoln University on Saturday night, reports AP from Philadelphia.

The Chester County District Attorney's Office said law enforcement had responded and were actively investigating.

No other details on the shooting, including the condition of the victims, were available.

Authorities asked people to avoid the area.

Pennsylvania Gov Josh Shapiro said on X that he was briefed on the shooting and offered the full support of his administration to the university and local law enforcement.

"Join Lori and me in praying for the Lincoln University community," he said.

Israel insists it calls shots in Gaza despite truce

JERUSALEM, AFP

Netanyahu faces vote

With no majority in parliament and surrounded by allies outraged by his acceptance of a US-brokered Gaza ceasefire, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seems to have set his sights on Israel's next elections, reports AFP.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted on Sunday that Israel would decide for itself when to strike its foes and which countries could join an international security force in Gaza, as Egyptian recovery crews arrived.

The Egyptian convoy, captured on camera by AFP reporters in Khan Yunis in the south of the Gaza Strip, included heavy machinery to help speed the search for the remains of deceased Israeli hostages lost in the rubble of the devastated Palestinian territory.

Low-loader lorries flying the Egyptian flag transported bulldozers and mechanical diggers into Gaza, accompanied by tipper trucks sounding their horns and flashing their lights, en route to an Egyptian aid committee based in Al Zawayda.

Under the terms of a US-brokered ceasefire, as Israeli forces withdraw after two years of brutal fighting against Hamas, an international force, expected to be drawn from mainly Arab or Muslim countries, is supposed to secure Gaza.

But Israel opposes any role for its regional rival Turkey and Netanyahu, under fire from hardliners in his own coalition even for agreeing the ceasefire, took a stern line on Sunday as government ministers met in Jerusalem.

2026 will be ASEAN-India year of maritime cooperation: PM Modi

Urges early end to ASEAN-Indian trade deal review

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Cambodia's PM Hun Manet (R) and Thailand's PM Anutin Charnvirakul, during a ceremonial signing of a truce deal on the sidelines of ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday. AFP

India and the Southeast Asian nations will observe 2026 as the year of maritime cooperation and also hold a second naval exercise, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said as he virtually addressed the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders assembled for the annual summits in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday.

Modi said an early conclusion of the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA) could unleash the full economic potential of New Delhi's relationship with the 11-nation bloc.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who hosted the ASEAN conclaves, said the review of the 2009 trade deal had seen some "real progress", and that the Southeast Asian nations would like to conclude the process by the year-end.

The AITGA review started in 2023 after New Delhi complained that India's exporters were facing higher tariffs and varying levels of non-tariff barriers in Southeast Asian nations.

India's steel and plastic industries complained of higher duties on exports to the ASEAN nations. Agricultural exporters pointed out that the 2009 deal could not ensure a uniform food-safety standard and certification process across the Southeast Asian region.

"We are companions in the Global South," Modi told the ASEAN leaders from New Delhi on Sunday. "We are not only commercial partners but also cultural partners. ASEAN is a cornerstone of India's Act East Policy. India has always fully supported ASEAN centrality and its outlook in the Indo-Pacific."

He added: "Even in this era of uncertainties, the India-ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has continued to make steady progress. And this strong partnership of ours is emerging as a robust foundation for global stability and development."

He said India had stood firmly with its ASEAN friends in every disaster. He noted that cooperation between India and the Southeast Asian nations in humanitarian assistance, disaster response, maritime security, and the blue economy was growing rapidly.

Two suspects in Louvre jewel heist arrested near Paris

PARIS, REUTERS

Police officers stood guard at the Louvre Museum in Paris on Sunday, following the arrest of suspects in the Louvre heist case. REUTERS

BREAKTHROUGH

- One was about to fly to Algeria, Le Parisien says
- Paris prosecutor angered by leaking of arrest
- No indication jewels have been recovered

Suspects have been arrested over the brazen jewellery heist at the Louvre, just as one of them was about to fly out of France, the Paris prosecutor said on Sunday.

Two men in their 30s and originally from the capital's Seine-Saint-Denis suburb - which includes some of the country's most deprived areas - were detained on Saturday evening, according to Le Parisien newspaper, which first broke the story.

They were known to French police and one of the suspects was about to fly to Algeria from Charles de Gaulle airport, the newspaper said.

There was no indication on Sunday that any of France's stolen crown jewels had been recovered.

Paris prosecutor Laure Beccuau did not say how many people were arrested or give any more details about them. In a statement, she deplored the fact that information about their arrest was leaked.

"This revelation can only hinder the investigative efforts of the 100 or so mobilised investigators, both in the search for the stolen jewellery and for all the perpetrators. It is too early to provide any specific details," Laure Beccuau said.

Interior Minister Laurent Nunez, under public pressure to deliver results a week to the day after the robbery, congratulated investigators in a tweet, but gave no more detail.

Four hooded thieves made off with eight precious pieces worth an estimated $102 million from the Louvre's collection on October 19, exposing security lapses at the world's most-visited museum.

They broke in using a crane to smash an upstairs window during opening hours and escaped on motorbikes.

Top Pakistani military official meets Bangladesh's Yunus

DHAKA, PTI: Pakistan's Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza has said Islamabad was willing to deepen ties with Dhaka as he met Bangladesh's interim government chief Muhammad Yunus here.

"Our two countries will support each other," Chief Adviser Yunus' press wing quoted Mirza as saying during the meeting, which was held at his official Jamuna residence late Saturday.

The press wing statement said they "discussed a wide range of issues concerning Bangladesh-Pakistan relations, including growing importance of bilateral trade, investment and defence cooperation". It said they exchanged views on the growing challenge of "misinformation and the misuse of social media by non-state actors to undermine peace and stability across various regions".

"Fake news and disinformation have flooded social media. It is being used to sow chaos. There must be a concerted global effort to combat this menace," the statement quoted Yunus as saying to the Pakistani military leader.

According to the statement, Mirza emphasised the shared historical, cultural and people-to-people ties between the two countries.

Will resolve Pak-Af conflict 'very quickly': Trump

ISLAMABAD/KUALA LUMPUR, PTI

War still possible if deliberations fail, Pak warns Af

Pakistan and Afghanistan held the second round of talks in Istanbul to establish a joint monitoring and oversight mechanism to curb terrorist movements across the border even as Islamabad warned that war was still an option if talks failed to address its chief concern about terrorism, reports PTI. Dozens of soldiers, civilians and terrorists were killed in clashes earlier this month, creating a war like situation but peace was restored temporarily on October 19 after the two sides held talks.

US President Donald Trump on Sunday said he would get the conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan "solved very quickly", calling Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army chief Asim Munir "great people".

Addressing an event on the sidelines of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Malaysia, he talked about the latest tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"I know them both ... the Pakistan field marshal and the prime minister are great people, and I know we're gonna get that done quickly. That one started up a few days ago," he said.

When the fighting broke out between Pakistan and Afghanistan, the US president was quick to express interest in assisting with establishing peace, although he was at the time occupied with overseeing a hostage exchange between Hamas and Israel.

"I said, 'I'll have to wait till I get back. I am doing another one,'" he told reporters at the time. "Because I'm good at solving wars, I'm good at making peace," the US President added.

Meanwhile, Pakistan and Afghanistan held the second round of talks in Istanbul to establish a joint monitoring and oversight mechanism to curb terrorist movements across the border, even as Islamabad warned that war was still an option if talks failed to address its chief concern about terrorism.

Dozens of soldiers, civilians and terrorists were killed in clashes earlier this month, creating a war-like situation; however, peace was restored temporarily on October 19 after the two sides held talks -- facilitated by Qatar and Turkey -- in Doha.

Firefighters gathered at the Zubair oil field in southern Iraq on Sunday after a fire, caused by a gas leak, broke out. One person was killed, and at least nine others were injured in the incident. AFP

Miracle Star shines brightest in Mysore Derby

MYSURU RESULTS

Miracle Star, from the stables of James Mckeown and ridden by Suraj Narredu, won the Mysore Derby 2025, the feature event of the Mysuru races on Sunday.

1. Royal Calcutta Turf Club Trophy (Div II) - 1100M: Chisox (CN Devayya) Aleemuddin 1; Sunway Lagoon (Rahul) 2; N R I Millennium (Imran Chisty) 3; Sheer BLiss (Akshay Kumar) 4; WB: Lnk, 5-1/2, 1-1/2L; T: 1:06.07; TB: Pradeep Annaiah; Fav: Sunway Lagoon.

2. Delhi Race Club Trophy - 1200M: Cool Winter (Suchit Jayraj) Anil Baandal 1; Emeraldo (SG Prasad) 2; True Gold (Vishwa) 3; Czarevitch (Abhishek Mhatre) 4; WB: 2-1/2, 1, 3/4L; T: 1:13.16; TB: M Bobby K; Fav: Cool Winter.

3. Royal Calcutta Turf Club Trophy (Div I) - 1100M: Silver Smile Of Beauty (Prakash Srivastav) Prabhu Kumar 1; Master Way (Asirwatham) 2; Amazing Attraction (Aleemuddin) 3; Choice (Faiz) 4; NR: SD Queen; WB: 4, 3/4, 2-3/4L; T: 1:04.76; TB: M Bobby; Fav: Immortal Beauty.

4. Madras Race Club Trophy (Div I) - 1400M: N R I Victory (Ravinder Reddy) Pavan 1; Bellavita (Trevor Patel) 2; Natural One (G Vivek) 3; Supreme Success (RN Darshan) 4; WB: 1-1/2, 3/4, 2-1/4L; T: 1:23.62; TB: Sajjid Qureshi; Fav: Bellavita.

5. Royal Western India Turf Club Ltd Trophy - 1200M: Bezawada Sultan (Mohammed Abdul) Sachin 1; Magic Circle (Alex Rozario) 2; Super Sapphire (Praveen) 3; Agera (Anish Hangal) 4; NR: Moonlight Queen; WB: Nk, 4-1/2L, Nk; T: 1:10.96; TB: Joseph Awale; Fav: Golden Time.

6. Bangalore Turf Club Trophy - 1200M: Gold Kite (Kunal Sharma) Dharshan Antony 1; Don Carlos (Trevor Patel) 2; Decacorn (Sai Kiran) 3; Knotty Blush (Akshay Kumar) 4; WB: Shd, 1/2, Lnk, 1L; T: 1:10.25; TB: Aditya; Fav: Knotyy Blush.

7. Mysore Derby 2025 - 2000M: Miracle Star (Mrs Sharmila Padmanabhan) Suraj Narredu 1; Red Bishop (Trevor Patel) 2; Mahler (G Vivek) 3; Unforgettable Star (Yash Narredu) 4; WB: 7-3/4, 1-1/4, 2-3/4L; T: 2:01.36; TB: James McKeown; Fav: Red Bishop.

8. Hyderabad Race Club Trophy - 1400M: Monterio (V Shankar) Alex Rozario 1; Fortis (Akshay Kumar) 2; Knotty Scotty (Antony Raj) 3; Eternal Glory (RN Darshan) 4; WB: 2-3/4, 1, 4-1/2L; T: 1:22.98; TB: Pradeep Annaiah; Fav: Knotty Scotty.

9. Madras Race Club Trophy (Div II) - 1400M: Tefillah (Mukul Sonawala) Akshay Kumar 1; Purple Martini (K Rajesh) 2; Star Symphony (Ajeeth Kumar) 3; Noble Pursuit (Rahul) 4; NR: Ankush; WB: 2-1/4, 2-1/4, 3L; T: 1:25.58; TB: Darius Byramji; Fav: Star Symphony.

Bengaluru dividends

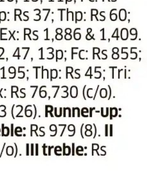
I race: Rs 52w; 16, 10, 16p; Fc: Rs 158; Q: Rs 56; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 36; Tri: Rs 556 & 337; Ex: Rs 910 & 370.
II race: Rs 29w; 16, 26, 14p; Fc: Rs 236; Q: Rs 119; Shp: Rs 64; Thp: Rs 53; Tri: Rs 1,008 & 241; Ex: Rs 6,047 & 4,535.
III race: Rs 22w; 10, 23, 16p; Fc: Rs 283; Q: Rs 201; Shp: Rs 59; Thp: Rs 41; Tri: Rs 840 & 318; Ex: Rs 1,763 & 893.
IV race: Rs 72w; 22, 14, 25p; Fc: Rs 257; Q: Rs 125; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 72; Tri: Rs 1,295 & 651: Ex: Rs 60,401 & 5,177.
V race: Rs 40w; 17, 15, 36p; Fc: Rs 571; Q: Rs 171; Shp: Rs 49; Thp: Rs 87; Tri: Rs 4,149 & 2,074; Ex: Rs 50,536 (c/o).
VI race: Rs 99w; 27, 16p; Fc: Rs 275; Q: Rs 96; Shp: Rs 25; Thp: Rs 52; Tri: Rs 1,826 & 2,975; Ex: Rs 3,924 & 975.
VII race: Rs 24w; 10, 11, 15p; Fc: Rs 46; Q: Rs 16; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 33; Tri: Rs 143 & 110; Ex: Rs 472 & 248.
VIII race: Rs 54w; 16, 15, 11p; Fc: Rs 310; Q: Rs 144; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 60; Tri: Rs 315 & 105; Ex: Rs 1,886 & 1,409.
IX race: Rs 24w; 12, 47, 13p; Fc: Rs 855; Q: Rs 463; Shp: Rs 195; Thp: Rs 45; Tri: Rs 2,849 & 514; Ex: Rs 76,730 (c/o).
Jackpot: Rs 40,403 (26). **Runner-up:** Rs 5,424 (83). **I treble:** Rs 979 (8). **II treble:** Rs 6,073 (c/o). **III treble:** Rs 596 (30).

Hyderabad races cancelled

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Board of Stewards/ Directors of the Hyderabad Race Club have resolved to cancel the races scheduled for October 27 due to administrative reasons.

Karishma takes silver as India reign supreme

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka athletes Karishma S and Supriya SB bagged silver and bronze in their respective events as India finished top of the medal tally with 20 gold medals on the final day of the South Asian Senior Athletics Championships in Ranchi on Sunday.



Karishma S

The 25-year-old Karishma hurled the javelin to 55.06 metre in the women's final for the runner-up position behind Sri Lankan Nadeesha Lekamge, who threw 60.14. Another Indian Deepika took the bronze with an effort of 54.87.

The 24-year-old Supriya, on the other hand, finished third with her best attempt of 1.74m in a tie with silver medallist Ranindi Gamage.

Despite a tough fight from Sri Lanka (16 gold), India added eight more gold medals to their tally to win the overall championships with 20 gold medals.

Result: Women: Javelin throw: Nadeesha Lekamge (SL) 60.14m, 1; Karishma S (IND) 55.06, 2; Deepika (IND) 54.87, 3.
High jump: Reet Rathor (IND) 1.76m, 1; Ranindi Gamage (SL) 1.74, 2; Supriya SB (IND) 1.74, 3.

CRICKET RANJI TROPHY

Nair feels he deserved a longer rope after India axe

Karnataka batter unhappy over being dropped after just one bad series

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

Karnataka's Karun Nair celebrates after scoring a century against Goa on the second day of their Ranji Trophy clash in Shivamogga on Sunday. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR PS

It is still very early into the new season but one can already hear the little voices from every nook and corner asking why Karun Nair has not been able to capitalise on the opportunities and cement his spot in the Indian side. And the answer would be a straightforward one: Not converting chances in a game where the currency is runs.

However, is it a fair call to drop someone with truckloads of domestic runs just after one away tour?

Just over a month after the Indian squad for the two-match Test series against West Indies was picked, a disappointed Nair said that he "deserved a lot better" after being left out of the team.

After having two prolific seasons with Vidarbha, Nair earned an India call-up after seven years, on the back of 1,553 Ranji Trophy runs.

In 2023, when he made the trip to England for County Championship, he averaged 83, scoring 249 runs in three matches. And in 2024, he averaged 48.70 in seven innings, scoring 487 runs for Northamptonshire.

However, he struggled to have the same kind of influence wearing Indian whites in the five-Test series against England this summer. Nair managed to register just one fifty in eight innings, scoring 205 runs and averaging 25.62 and was then dumped out of the squad.

"Obviously, it is quite disappointing, but I know that I deserve to be there after the last two years I have had. People might have their own opinions, but for me personally, I can have my own. My own opinion is that I deserve a lot better," Nair told reporters after the end of the second's day play against Goa.

While the 33-year-old did remain candid, he did not reveal much details on how he was conveyed about being left out and said that he had "good conversations" with certain individuals. "I would not want to say anything more. There are certain individuals that have had good conversations with me. Few individuals in the team had conversations about how they feel and that's about it."

After having not made the Indian squad and then being ignored in the India A side for the two four-dayers against South Africa A, a dejected Nair has already started to stack up some runs in domestic cricket.

"Just telling myself that I deserve more than a series. That's all I can tell myself and not let this get into my head," Nair said.

On the second morning of the Ranji Trophy clash against Goa, Nair put a stride forward and drove a full length ball to the fence. The timing so good, no one moved an inch. And that's when Goa knew he was going to cash in.

Nair on song

Nair got to his 25th first-class hundred in 163 balls and when he started losing partners, he upped the ante and reached his 150 in the next 74.

Nair said that he wants to keep it simple, control things that can be controlled and continue to keep on piling the runs.

"Obviously, disappointment is there. All I can do is keep scoring runs. People can have their opinions. My job is to go out there and score runs. All I can say is that after the two years that I had, I deserved a lot better."

Nair looked rarely troubled in his flawless unbeaten 174 but the celebrations were muted, knowing that there is some unfinished business.

While the lights started to slowly fade in Shivamogga, Nair is again in an all familiar journey once again and for a Karnataka side, who are in desperate need for inspiration, having gone without a title since the 2014-15 season, it can be found in their own dressing room.

Nair glitters on a gloomy day

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

How do you prove to the state selectors that your return to Karnataka was a solid decision? By scoring runs and batting time, of course.

Karun Nair, on Sunday, was in the mood for some batting, scoring an unbeaten 174 while staying in the middle for 435 minutes to anchor Karnataka to 371 in 110.1 overs on the second day of their Ranji Trophy game against Goa here.

However, at 4:40 pm, when the officials called time, the scene had moved slightly past Nair, with the weather gods taking as the day's honours after play was cut short due to rain. Goa had reached 28 for one in their reply, with Suyash Prabudessai (11 not out) and Abhinav Tejrana (8 not out), still trailing Karnataka by 343 runs.

Abhilash Shetty picked up the lone wicket of Manthan Khutkar in the fourth over. Vidwath Kaverappa would feel a little unlucky for not having a wicket to his name, with balls fizzling past the outside edge, without brushing it.

The groundstaff worked hard but the rain left a few puddles and about two hours later, the ground was deemed unfit for play for Day 2, having completed just 54.1 overs.

The day started on a bright note for the hosts amid gloomy skies, as Shreyas Gopal (57) aided Nair. But he was a victim of a Vijesh Prabhudesai set-up, which saw two balls move slightly in and took the edge off a ball that straightened.

Goa took the second new ball as soon as it was available and it paid back as Yashovardhan Parantap looked to lift one to the boundary but only managed to balloon it to mid-off.

Karun and Vyshak (31) then forged a 60-run stand. While Vyshak looked good, he was pinned by Darshan Misal. The fall of the ninth wicket sparked Nair to step on the accelerator, and that he did, smashing Arjun Tendulkar for 17 runs in the 105th over.

SCOREBOARD

KARNATAKA (I Innings, O/n: 222/5): Mayank Agarwal c Snehal b Koushik 28 (69b, 4x4), Nikin Jose c Manthan b Arjun 3 (48b), Shrijith KL c Samar b Arjun 0 (5b), Karun Nair (not out) 174 (267b, 14x4, 3x6), Smaran R c Abhinav b Koushik 3 (9b), Abhinav Manohar c Koushik b Arjun 37 (64b, 6x4), Shreyas Gopal c Snehal b Vjesh 57 (109b, 6x4, 1x6), Yashovardhan Parantap c Vijesh b Koushik 14 (24b, 2x4), Vyshak Vijaykumar lbw Darshan 31 (53b, 4x4), Abhilash Shetty c Abhinav b Darshan 2 (10b), Vidwath Kaverappa (run out) Abhinav 0 (9b). EXTRAS (B-5, LB-9, NB-6, W-2) 22. **TOTAL (all out, 110.1 overs) 371.**
Fall of wickets: 1-18 (Nikin), 2-26 (Shrijith), 3-47 (Agarwal), 4-65 (Smaran), 5-128 (Abhinav), 6-245 (Shreyas), 2-271 (Yashovardhan), 8-331 (Vyshak), 9-342 (Abhilash).
Bowling: Arjun Tendulkar 29-6-100-3, V Koushik 27.1-11-35-2, Vijesh Prabudesai 20-3-86-1, Darshan Misal 18-0-74-2, Mohit Redkar 9-0-35-0, Suyash Prabhudessai 4-0-8-0, Lalit Yadav 3-0-19-0.
Goa (I Innings): Manthan Khutkar c Shrijith b Abhilash 9 (17b, 1x4), Suyash Prabhudessai (batting) 11 (36b, 1x4), Abhinav Tejrana (batting) 8 (25b, 1x4). EXTRAS 0. **TOTAL (for 1 wkt, 13 overs) 28.**
Fall of wicket: 1-9 (Manthan).
Bowling: Vidwath Kaverappa 6-1-11-0, Abhilash Shetty 5-2-9-1, Yashovardhan Parantap 1-0-3-0, Vyshak Vijaykumar 1-0-4-0.
Group B brief scores: At Rajkot: Saurashtra (O/n: 258/8): 260 all out in 88.4 overs (Harvik Desai 26, Chirag Jani 82, Ansh Gosai 38, Ravindra Jadeja 36, Parth Bhut 27 n.o; Aryan Pandey 4-31, Kumar Karthikeya 4-84) vs Madhya Pradesh: 195/4 in 78 overs.
At Chandigarh: Maharashtra: 313 all out & 66/0 in 11 overs (Prithvi Shaw 41 n.o., Arshin Kulkarni 25 n.o.) vs Chandigarh: 209 all out in 73 overs (Shivam Bhambri 33, Arjun Azad 29, Raman Bishnoi 54, Nishunk Birla 56 n.o.; Ramakrishan Ghosh 2-51, Vicky Ostwal 6-40).
At New Chandigarh: Punjab (O/n 240/6): 436 all out in 163.4 overs (Harnoor Singh 170, Uday Saharan 37, Sahil Arora 36, Krish Bhagat 28, Prerit Dutta 72, Mayank Markande 48 n.o.; Nedumankuzhy Basil 2-69, Ankit Sharma 4-103, Baba Aparajith 2-88) vs Kerala: 15/1 in 7 overs.

Goa's V Koushik (centre) celebrates the dismissal of Karnataka's Yashovardhan Parantap in Shivamogga on Sunday. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR PS

Big guns fire as Madrid seal tense Clasico

MADRID, AFP

Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham celebrates after scoring the winner against Barcelona in Madrid on Sunday. REUTERS

Jude Bellingham's goal helped Real Madrid beat Barcelona 2-1 to win a tense Clasico and move five points clear of their rivals at the top of La Liga on Sunday.

Champions Barcelona won all four times the teams were pitted against each other last season but in his first Clasico as Real Madrid coach, Xabi Alonso snapped that run.

Kylian Mbappe, who later missed a penalty, fired Madrid in front and although Fermin Lopez levelled for the visitors at the Santiago Bernabeu, Bellingham netted a second for the hosts before half-time which proved decisive.

Barca playmaker Pedri was sent off in the final stages for a second yellow card as tensions spilled over in the Spanish capital.

Madrid's victory means they have won nine of their opening 10 league games and Alonso's side proved against Barca they can triumph on the big occasion, following their derby humbling by Atletico Madrid in September.

Hansi Flick's team were led on the touchline by his assistant Marcus Sorg, as the German coach was suspended following a red card last weekend as they scraped a victory over relegation-battling Girona.

Barcelona were without several regular starters, including Raphinha, Robert Lewandowski and Dani Olmo among others, while Lamine Yamal still does not appear fully fit after a groin injury but started.

The teenager wound up Madrid fans in the week by claiming Los Blancos "steal" and "complain" and his name was greeted with a chorus of jeers when read out before kick-off.

Barcelona had more of the ball in the first half but it was largely sterile possession and Madrid created the most dangerous opportunities.

The hosts were awarded an early penalty when Yamal appeared to bring down Vinicius Junior. However it was cancelled after a VAR review as it was the Brazilian initiated the contact.

Results: Real Madrid: 2 (Mbappe 22nd, Bellingham 43rd) bt Barcelona: 1 (Lopez 38th); Mallorca: 1 (Maffeo 79th) drew with Levante: 1 (Etta Eyong 22nd); Valencia: 0 lt to Villarreal: 2 (Moreno 45th pen, Comesana 57th); Athletic Bilbao: 0 lt to Getafe: 1 (Mayoral 75th); Espanyol: 1 (Romero 47th) bt Elche: 0; Girona: 3 (Stuani 64th pen, 90th pen, Ounahi 83rd) drew with Real Oviedo: 3 (Vinas 38th pen, Rondon 58th, Carmo 90+7th).

Eze steers Arsenal; Cash stunner slays Man City

LONDON, AFP: Arsenal stretched their Premier League lead to four points as Eberechi Eze's goal beat his former club Crystal Palace 1-0, while Manchester City lost 1-0 at Aston Villa on Sunday.

Bournemouth are now the Gunners' closest challengers in second after they beat Nottingham Forest 2-0.

After Liverpool's latest defeat to Brentford on Saturday, Arsenal enjoyed the perfect weekend as both their title rivals fell further behind as they go from strength to strength.

Eze left the Eagles to join Arsenal in a £60 million ($80 million) deal in August and his first Premier League goal was decisive as Mikel Arteta's men were again able to lean on their set-piece prowess and a solid defence. The England international blasted in on the volley after Palace failed to clear Declan Rice's free-kick six minutes before half-time.

Arsenal again failed to hit top gear going forward, but didn't need to as they kept a 10th clean sheet in 13 games in all competitions this season.

The only concern for Arteta was the sight of Rice and William Saliba having to be replaced in the second half due to injury.

Arsenal's Eberechi Eze celebrates scoring against Crystal Palace. REUTERS

Arsenal now lead fourth-placed City by six points and have a seven-point cushion over Liverpool in sixth.

City appeared to be emerging as Arsenal's biggest obstacle in the title race after a nine-game unbeaten run.

But Pep Guardiola's men lost at Villa Park for the third consecutive season as Erling Haaland's 12-game scoring streak came to an end.

Matty Cash's stunning strike from outside the box on 19 minutes secured a fourth consecutive league win for Villa as Unai Emery's men climb to seventh.

Results: Arsenal: 1 (Eze 39th) bt Crystal Palace: 0; Aston Villa: 1 (Cash 19th) bt Manchester City: 0; Bournemouth: 2 (Tavernier 25th, Kroupi 40th) bt Nottingham Forest: 0; Wolves: 2 (Strand Larsen 42nd, Munetsi 45+4) lt to Burnley: 3 (Flemming 14th, 30th, Foster 90+5).

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No:SEE/Tr(Op)/C-N/EE/AEE-2/F-T6/25-26/1914 Date: 27.10.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Mode Only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works.

1) Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_ INDENT2903 for **replacement of existing old 11kV MCVCBS of 11 kV Bank1, Bank-2,Bank-3 and its connected Feeders by MEI make-DAS and SCADA compatible 11 kV, 500MVA, 31.5 KA switchgears at 220/66/11 kV Hebbal Receiving Station on Partial Turnkey, Two Part & Percentage Basis".**

2. Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_ INDENT2904 **for Grounding of 220kV Bus PT's and 66kV Bus PT's by providing cast iron pipe and accessories at 220/66/11kV Puttenahalli Yelahanka Receiving KPTCL on Total Turnkey, Two Part & Percentage Basis".**

The details regarding participating in the tender can be obtained by login into the **website: https://kptcl. karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink" **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **27.10.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Trans (Operations) Circle-North, KPTCL, UAS Campus, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560 024.

BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY
Jnanajyothi Central College Campus,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001.
Ph.No.080-22961016/22131385 E-Mail ID: registrar@bcu.ac.in

No.BCU/EST/G.F.R/CS/2025-26/198 Date: 23.10.2025

PRESS NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the additional guest faculty for the following UG and PG programmes in the University Departments, Jnanajyothi Central College Campus, University College for Women, Malleswaram and Post Graduate Centre, Bagaluru for the academic year 2025-26.

Department of Technology - Computer Science (UG & PG) and MCA

Interested candidates are advised to visit the link: **bcugfportal.in** for more information and to apply. The online application portal will be available from **27.10.2025 @ 10.00 AM to 31.10.2025 upto 5.00 PM**. The processing fees of **Rs. 200/- (for SC/ST/CAT-1 Rs. 100/-)** should be paid online to the following bank account. For More Details Visit University Website **www.bcu.ac.in**

Bank Name: Bank of Baroda, Account No: 05190100016143, IFSC Code: BARB0BANGAL (5th letter is Zero)

The candidates shall submit one filled application forms (hard copy) to the Office of the Registrar, Bengaluru City University, Jnanajyothi Central College Campus, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru- 560 001 on or before **5.00 PM on 31.10.2025.**

Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe/Other backward class reservation is applicable only to candidates from Karnataka. Valid caste certificate should be submitted from the competent authority of the State of Karnataka if the candidate belongs to SC/ST/OBC.

DIPR/CP/3395/Zen/2025-26 **Sd/- REGISTRAR**

Bengaluru Torpedoes champions

BENGALURU, DHNS

A jubilant Bengaluru Torpedoes team poses with the PVL title after beating Mumbai Meteors in the final on Sunday.

Bengaluru Torpedoes were crowned as the champions of the Prime Volleyball League after defeating the Mumbai Meteors 15-13, 16-4, 15-13 in the final at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad on Sunday.

Both teams started cautiously, controlling play through the middle zone. Petter Alstad Ostvik denied Joel Benjamin with a solid block, but Bengaluru hit back as Jishnu returned the favour on Shubham Chaudhary. Strong serves from Sethu gave the Torpedoes an early edge, forcing Mumbai to call for a super point. Despite the Meteors' late push, skipper and setter Matt West's smart distributions helped Bengaluru take the opening set.

Sethu opened the second set with the night's first super serve, and a flurry of unforced errors from Mumbai further tilted the momentum. Though Om Lad Vasant tried to spark a response, captain Amit Gulia and Shubham misfired on key attacks. Joel's consistent finishing and a blistering super serve helped the Torpedoes double their advantage.

In the third set, Jalen Penrose joined the attack with thunderous spikes as Bengaluru continued to dominate. Shubham led a spirited counter for Mumbai, but Coach David Lee's bold super point call proved decisive, with Penrose nailing the winner.

Sinner wears Vienna crown

VIENNA, AFP: Jannik Sinner clinched his fourth title of the season on Sunday as the Italian rallied from a set down to beat Alexander Zverev in the final of the Vienna Open.

Sinner dropped his first set of the tournament before staging a comeback to see off Zverev 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 to land the 22nd title of his career.

It is his second triumph in Vienna, where he also lifted the trophy in 2023, and extended his winning run on indoor hard courts to 21 matches going into next week's final Masters 1000 of the year in Paris.

IN BRIEF

Saharah, Vishnudev win

▸ Sai Saharah G and Vishnudev Paramesh won the wins Under-16 and Under-10 titles respectively at a tournament conducted by the Champions Chess Academy on Sunday, reports DHNS.

While Saharah clinched the crown via tie-breaker following a four-way tie for the first place, Vishnudev - who topped the table with 5.5 points out of 6 rounds - emerged as clear winner.

Venkat, Dhruva star for S Blues

▸ Venkat and Dhruva scored 12 points each as Southern Blues defeated Beagles BC 90-83 in the men's State A Division League Championship for Prof N C Parappa memorial rolling trophy at MNK Rao Park basketball courts on Sunday, reports DHNS.

Results: Southern Blues: 90 (Venkat 12, Dhruva 12) bt Beagles BC: 83 (Achintya 25, Pratham 22); 2. MNK Rao Park BC: 76 (Ajin 22, Venkat 12) bt Vivek's SC: 66 (Mukesh 21, Vinod 14); Bank of Baroda: 91 (Arvind 25, Harish 22) bt DYES Bangalore: 77 (Kushal 15, Adarsh 15).

Indian rugby men in semis

▸ The Indian men's rugby team has made it to the semifinals of the Asia Rugby Emirates Sevens Trophy following an impressive opening day of the tournament, reports PTI from Muscat.

After a fighting 14-10 win over Lebanon in the opener, India maintained momentum with a 26-5 victory against Afghanistan, and went on to secure a commanding 21-7 win over Iran in the quarterfinal.

With three wins from three matches, India face Saudi Arabia in the semifinal on Monday.

Anahat in pre-quarters

▸ Reigning national champion Anahat Singh entered the round-of-16 at the Canadian Women's Open squash, a USD 96,250 PSA Silver event, reports PTI from Toronto.

The Delhi teenager, ranked 43 in the world, defeated Swiss Cindy Merlo 11-3, 11-3, 11-4 in 17 minutes in the opening round on Saturday, and will next meet world No 20 and sixth seed Melissa Alves.

India beat Arg in polo

▸ Hosts India edged past Argentina 10-9 in the KogniVera International Polo Cup at the iconic Jaipur Polo Ground on Sunday, reports PTI from New Delhi.

"Winning against Argentina is an incredible moment for all of us. Every player gave their best, and the energy from the stands pushed us even further. It's a proud day for Indian polo," India captain Simran Singh Shergill said.

Serious crash in Moto3 race

▸ A motorcycle racer at the Malaysian MotoGP will need "multiple surgeries" following a serious crash in the Moto3 category on Sunday, reports AFP from Kuala Lumpur.

The race at Sepang was delayed after the nasty collision involving newly crowned world champion Jose Antonio Rueda and Noah Dettwiler.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Ranji Trophy (league phase): Bengal vs Gujarat, Saurashtra vs Madhya Pradesh, Mumbai vs Chhattisgarh **(all 9:30 am, day 3). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

KABADDI

PKL (play-offs): Puneri Paltan vs Dabang Delhi **(9 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

Veteran duo show there is still a lot of fight left in them

Rohit, Kohli buy time with Sydney super show

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Rarely have two cricketers with over 10,000 ODI runs each faced such intense scrutiny before a series. It felt as though they were on trial without anyone saying in as many words. Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, inarguably two of the greatest one-day players of their generation, came into this contest with impressive recent credentials. In their previous ODI tournament, Kohli had been named Player of the Match in the semifinal against Australia, while Rohit, besides being the captain, earned the same honour in the final of the Champions Trophy against New Zealand during India's triumphant campaign earlier this March in the UAE.

But, in modern cricket, past glories fade fast. The game today isn't merely about your previous outing or just the next series; it's about continuity and planning for the long road between World Cups. The oft-repeated mantra of "taking it one game at a time" doesn't fit the narrative when a team is trying to build its nucleus for the next cycle. The question, therefore, loomed: Could Rohit, who will turn 40, and Kohli, just a year younger, still form the nucleus of India's ODI side by the time the next World Cup rolls around in Africa next year?

For anyone who saw them in action, doubts about their fitness or hunger would have vanished. Kohli's energy in the field was as intense while Rohit, leaner and sharper than before, looked equally committed. Their partnership in Sydney rekindled memories of their prime years, when no target was insurmountable for them. Their stroke play proved that advancing years hadn't slowed their reflexes.

Still, the challenge was immense. Both veterans, now retired from Tests and T20Is, were returning to ODI cricket after a considerable break. Their task was made no easier by the opposition or the conditions. Mind you, Australia, in Australia, remains the sternest test in the sport; even for players who have scored mountains of runs Down Under.

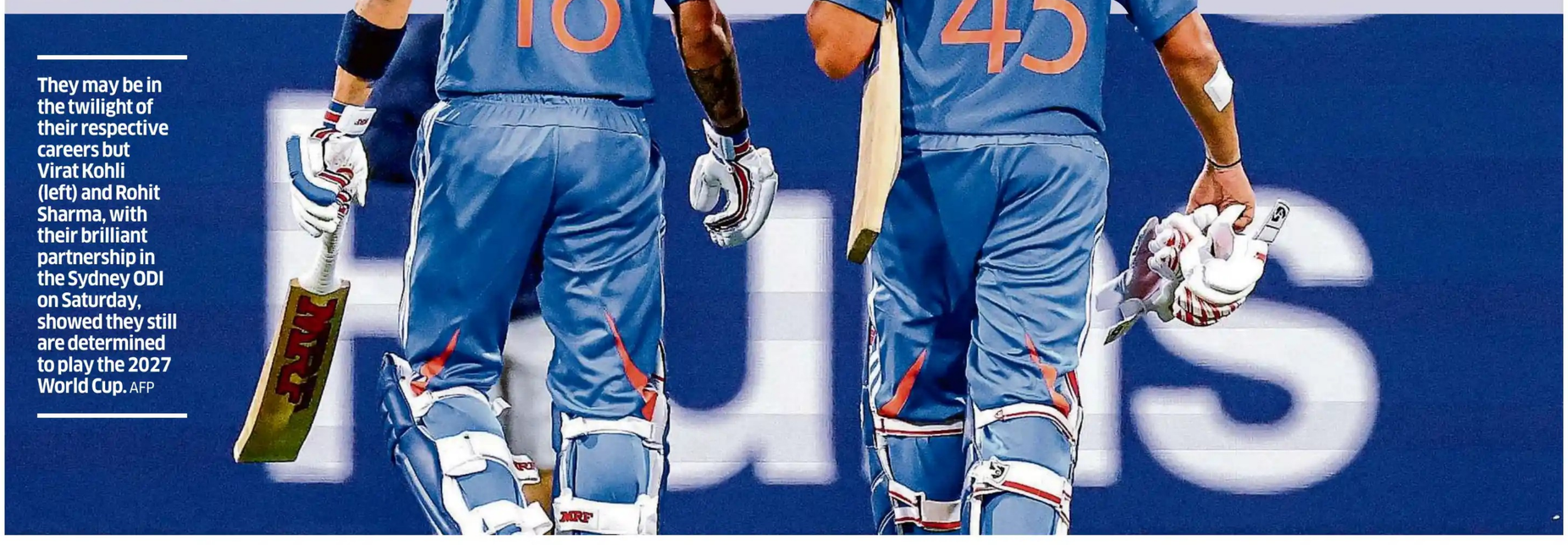
Kohli clearly appeared out of his depth in the first two ODIs, picking up two ducks. Rohit, after the early dismissal in Perth, came up with a battling half-century in Adelaide but another early exit in the third would have given enough fodder to question his continuity especially when a talent-mine like Yashasvi Jaiswal is warming the bench, and who can be a perfect foil for skipper Shubman Gill with his left-handed option at the top of the order.

They may not have been left out for the next ODI series against South Africa at home even if they had come up short of expectations in Sydney, but it would have been hard for the selectors to explain, which they rarely do, their decision to persist with them.

The team management and the selectors would have heaved a collective sigh of relief after the duo produced a match-winning stand in the final ODI. Not only did it save India from a whitewash but also briefly silenced the whispers about their future.

But have those doubts truly been dispelled? Not really. That's the unique challenge facing single-format players who spend months away from international competition. Rust creeps in and motivation can waver without consistent match time. At the same time, neither player has shown any particular interest in playing domestic cricket even when they are fit and free of any commitments. Gill also spoke after the series about finding ways to give both senior players more game-time following the South Africa tour, which begins on November 30. Finding game-time is challenging but it's crucial.

That being said, after their sudden and rather subdued exits from Test cricket earlier this year, both Kohli and Rohit would dearly love to script a fitting finale to their illustrious careers. The dream is clear -- to lift the 2027 World Cup and walk away as champions one last time. Their desire and discipline have never been in question, yet they also understand that every series from here on will be a test of form, fitness and their resolve.



They may be in the twilight of their respective careers but Virat Kohli (left) and Rohit Sharma, with their brilliant partnership in the Sydney ODI on Saturday, showed they still are determined to play the 2027 World Cup. AFP

Bengaluru's Srishti Kiran poses with the ITF J30 title in Cabarete, Dominican Republic on Saturday.

Srishti claims maiden junior international title

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's upcoming tennis player Srishti Kiran made her first big impression on the international junior circuit by clinching the ITF J30 title at Cabarete in the Dominican Republic on Saturday.

The 13-year-old Bengaluru girl delivered a dominating performance to stun the top seed Stephanie Pumar of Venezuela 6-2, 6-2.

The victory capped an impressive campaign where she had earlier stunned second seed Arina Vansovich of Russia 6-2, 6-3 in the pre-quarterfinals and advanced through the next two rounds in similar fashion.

Reflecting on the tournament where she did not concede a single set, Srishti said: "Winning my first international title in Cabarete feels truly special. The decision to play was taken by my academy RPS Academy in Florida. The field was strong with high-ranked players who had competed in major junior events, so every match was a challenge."

Srishti, who was initially trained by coach Dhyan Uthappa in Bengaluru, will continue her campaign in the Dominican Republic competing in another ITF J30 event next week.

Rain stalls India's march

In-form opener Pratika twists her right ankle in final group game

NAVI MUMBAI, PTI

Frequent rain interruptions led to India's game against Bangladesh in Navi Mumbai being abandoned on Sunday. PTI

Incessant rains forced the abandonment of India's match against Bangladesh but the hosts suffered a major injury scare as opener Pratika Rawal hurt her ankle and knee while fielding in an inconsequential Women's World Cup match here on Sunday.

In a rain-truncated 27 overs per side contest, India were 57 for no loss in 8.4 overs after restricting Bangladesh to 119/9 when the rain intervened again, forcing the officials to call off the game. India's target was revised to 126 from 27 overs.

Smriti Mandhana was on 34 not out and makeshift opener Amanjot Kaur was unbeaten on 15 when the match ended, and the two teams shared a point.

India finished the league stage with three wins from seven matches and the washout gave them seven points along with a fourth-place finish.

Earlier, Rawal's right foot got stuck in the turf on the final ball of the 21st over of the first innings when she ran in from deep midwicket to stop the ball, and collapsed immediately, grimacing in pain. Indian players ran towards their teammate while a stretcher was also taken to the spot, but Rawal walked off the field with assistance from the support staff and even sported a smile on her face.

All eyes will remain on Rawal's recovery as India, chasing their maiden World Cup title, will take on formidable Australia in the semifinal here on Thursday.

The BCCI informed, "Team India all-rounder Pratika Rawal sustained an injury to her knee and ankle while fielding in the first innings against Bangladesh. The BCCI Medical Team is closely monitoring her progress."

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 119/9 in 27 overs (Sharmin Akhter 36, Sobhana Mostary 26; Shree Charani 2-23, Radha Yadav 3-30) vs India: 57/0 in 8.4 overs (Smriti Mandhana 34 n.o.).
Result: Match abandoned due to rain.
India's next match: vs Australia (Semifinal, Oct 30, Navi Mumbai)

England spoil a Devine farewell

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI: England rode on their spinners' fine effort to register a dominating eight-wicket win over New Zealand in their final group match of the Women's World Cup here on Sunday.

It was the final ODI appearance of New Zealand skipper Sophie Devine, and there was no fairytale ending as her side could only last 38.2 overs, getting bundled out for a tournament-lowest 168.

The White Ferns were already eliminated from the ICC showpiece, but the win helped England to leap to No. 2 on the table with 11 points behind leaders Australia (13).

England's march was facilitated by their spinners, who dominated the middle overs even without their talisman Sophie Ecclestone, who injured her shoulder while fielding duirng the game.

Brief scores: New Zealand 168 all out in 38.2 overs (Georgia Plimmer 43, Amelia Kerr 35; Linsey Smith 3-30, Nat Sciver-Brunt 2-31, Alice Capsey 2-34) lt to England 172/2 in 29.2 overs (Amy Jones 86 n.o., Tammy Beaumont 40, Heather Knight 33).
Result: England won by eight wickets.
PoM: Amy Jones.

Shaina, Diksha bag gold as Indians shine in Asian juniors

CHENGDU (CHINA), PTI: India recorded its best-ever showing at the Badminton Asia U17 & U15 Championships as Shaina Manimuthu and Diksha Sudhakar clinched gold medals in their respective categories here on Sunday.

In the U15 girls' singles final, Shaina overcame Japan's Chiharu Tomita 21-14, 22-20, while Diksha outclassed compatriot Lakshya Rajesh 21-16, 21-9 to take the U17 girls' singles crown.

With Sunday's triumphs, the Indian contingent wrapped up the continental event with two gold, one silver and two bronze medals — its best-ever haul at the championships.

The last time India secured two gold medals was in 2013 when Siril Verma won the U15 boys' singles title and Chirag Shetty and MR Arjun claimed the U17 boys' doubles crown.

On Sunday, Shaina became the fourth Indian girls' singles player to clinch the U15 crown as she dominated Tomita in the opening game and then staved off a late challenge in the second game to close out the match in 44 minutes.

Later, Diksha became the first Indian girls' singles player to win the U17 title, dominating the 27-minute all-Indian final.

Diksha Sudhakar beat compatriot Lakshya Rajesh 21-16, 21-9 in the girls' U-17 final at the Badminton Asia U-17 & U-15 Championships in Chengdu on Sunday. BADMINTON ASIA

Sujeet storms into gold medal match

NOVI SAD (SERBIA), PTI: Sujeet Kalkal pulled off a stunning two-point throw in the dying moments of his semifinal to trump Japan's Yuto Nishiuchi 3-2 and secure his place in the men's freestyle 65kg title clash at the U23 World Championships, here Sunday.

Kalkal trailed till the very end of the bout in which the Japanese did not let the Indian launch any attack but for the fag end.

Trailing 1-2 and just three seconds from the hooter, Kalkal went for a double leg attack and managed to throw Nishiuchi off balance for a winning move in the last-four clash. Kalkal has never won a world title but has two U23 Asian titles (2022, 2025) and one U20 Asian Championship gold (2022).

Nishiuchi led 2-0 at the end of first period, scoring a point on pushout and passivity of his rival. Kalkal got on board when Nishiuchi was put on clock.

Bhullar cards top-10 finish

MANILA, PTI: Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar **(in pic)** produced a steady three-under 69 on the final day to register a Top-10 finish at the USD 2 million International Series Philippines here on Sunday.

Bhullar (67-69-67-69), who stayed in the Top-10 this whole week, carded a four-day total of 16-under. He finished Tied-seventh for his first Top-10 on the International Series in 2025. It was also his first top-10 outside India this year.

Among other Indians in fray, Karandeep Kochhar (72) at nine-under was T-36, Ajeetesh Sandhu (69) was eight-under for the week at T-40th.

Hitaashee ends T-21st

Hitaashee Bakshi, who was inside top-3 after her first round 4-under 68 at The Wistron Ladies Open, shot even par 72 in the second to finish T-21st in an event that was cut short to just two rounds and 36 holes.

Hitaashee had the privilege of playing the first round with the eventual winner, Yani Tseng, a former World No. 1 and the first Hero Women's Indian Open champ in 2007.

McLaren's Norris takes Mexican GP pole

MEXICO CITY, AFP

Title-chasing Lando Norris produced a stunning late lap in his McLaren to grab pole position for Sunday's Mexico City Grand Prix and boost his championship challenge on Saturday ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton.

Norris's team-mate and series leader Oscar Piastri, who leads him by 14 points in the championship, qualified down in eighth after a disappointing session, three places behind four-time champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull, who is 40 points behind in third.

McLaren's Lando Norris (centre) poses after qualifying in pole position with second-placed Ferrari's Charles Leclerc (left) and third-placed Lewis Hamilton on Saturday. REUTERS

The 25-year-old Briton clocked a best lap of one minute and 15.586 seconds to beat Leclerc by 0.262 seconds with seven-time champion Hamilton three-tenths adrift.

Mercedes' George Russell was fourth ahead of Verstappen and Italian teenage rookie Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes, Carlos Sainz of Williams and Piastri. Sainz faces a five-place grid penalty.

Racing Bulls' rookie Isack Hadjar was ninth and Oliver Bearman of Haas 10th.

It was Norris's first pole in Mexico, his fifth this season and the 14th of his career as well as McLaren's first Mexico pole since 1990.

"I'm happy to be back on pole, it's been a long time," said Norris whose last pole came at the Belgian Grand Prix in July.

"My lap - it was one of those laps where you don't know what happened - it felt decent, but when I saw it was a 15.5, I was surprised."

Devika finishes runner-up

JAKARTA, PTI: Indian shuttler Devika Sihag's fine run came to an end at the Indonesia Masters after losing the women's singles final to former world champion Nozomi Okuhara of Japan here on Sunday.

The 20-year-old from Haryana, who had captured the Malaysia International Challenge title in August, went down 11-21, 9-21 to the top-seeded Okuhara in a one-sided summit clash of the Super 100 tournament. Eighth seed Sihag had earlier defeated Macau's Pui Chi Wa in the opening round, before notching up wins over Lee So Yui of Chinese Taipei, Ishika Jaiswal of the USA and local hope Mutiara Ayu Puspitasari en route to the final.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com